

# Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## MURDERED ...BY POLICE



THE battle is over. The ground is spattered with blood and broken teeth. The mounted police trot off, their grisly work done. The body of Kevin Gately, fatally wounded in the charge, is dragged away to a stretcher by senior police officers.

**IT WAS Kevin Gately's first ever demonstration. He went there to protest against one enemy—racism. He found another enemy—the police.**

As soon as he and his comrades arrived in London's Red Lion Square, the police launched a murderous attack on the anti-fascist demonstrators. They moved in on horseback with truncheons flailing. After their charge had forced the socialist demonstration to retreat in fear and confusion Kevin Gately lay dying.

As soon as the news of his death got out, the whitewashing started. According to a police spokesman, there were 'no marks of physical injury'.

But by Monday afternoon it was known that Kevin had died from a blow to the head. By then, however, a 'bomb' had conveniently gone off in the Houses of Parliament. The newspapers had another story to divert attention from the murder of Kevin Gately.

There really is no other word for it. It was murder—by policemen who showed that they are not neutral by viciously attacking the socialist demonstrators, inflicting bloody

mouths and broken heads. They protected the goons of the far right who were demanding still more persecution of black people. These same goons are fans of the police and of tough police action against trade unionists and the left.

They have been getting it too. Over recent years those with wealth and power have gone to great lengths to reorganise the police to deal with strikers and pickets.

### HIGHLY TRAINED

They handpicked the man who master-minded Saturday's police riot, Deputy Assistant Commissioner John Gerrard, to set up the Special Patrol Group.

The SPG moved against London dockers and printworkers picketing Robert Horne's warehouse in July 1972. That August they attacked Hull dockers' pickets at Neap House Wharf. In February last year they distinguished themselves by killing two Pakistanis at India House in London. The SPG said the two were armed. Their 'arms' were toy pistols.

Since then Gerrard has been in charge of intelligence operations against miners' pickets and joint commander of the Heathrow Airport

police-army exercise.

He has been highly trained for this work. In 1971 he went to the American Military Police School in Georgia where he and other thugs, mainly from South American dictatorships, learned how to deal with 'civil disturbances' and how to use special batons, water cannon, gas and torture.

The Labour government has changed none of this. After Kevin Gately's murder Home Secretary Roy Jenkins had nothing but praise for the police.

The only way to fight back against these sinister forces is to organise and demonstrate against them. Mass protest can put an end to police brutality and violence and force the disbanding of the special squads.

To do nothing has disastrous consequences. As The Guardian put it after the Heathrow operation: 'It is believed that the people involved have been pleasantly surprised by the lack of public protest or shock...'

We must make sure that they are not 'pleasantly surprised' again.

■ **BLOODY SATURDAY**—full report on centre pages.

## Government moves against Socialist Worker

THE Labour government, in the shape of Sam Silkin, the Attorney General, has successfully applied to the High Court for permission to start proceedings against the editor and publishers of Socialist Worker.

This follows the uproar during the Janie Jones trial nine weeks ago when we named two wealthy witnesses who claimed that they had been blackmailed. Janie Jones was later acquitted on all blackmail charges.

We argued then and we argue now that we were not in contempt and that a judge has no power to order the entire press not to name witnesses in a blackmail case.

This action by the Attorney General represents a serious erosion of the freedom of the press. It seeks to extend still further the power of judges to decide what should or should not appear in newspapers.

It will be vigorously resisted. But that defence will cost money: a lot of money.

The law of contempt is complicated. The case will involve long legal argument.

If you, our readers, want us to defend ourselves properly, you will have to help us.

Our only wealth is the enthusiasm and support of our readers. That enthusiasm and support has brought us in £2000 a month to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund every month since the fund was started last year.

This month so far we've got £772. But we need much, much more over the next few weeks if we are to instruct lawyers for a proper defence against the Attorney General.

So dig deep. Organise special collections in your place of work.

Tell your mates that we're building a socialist workers' paper. And we don't intend to be put off by massive expenses imposed on us by the actions of a Labour Attorney General.

### DEMONSTRATION AGAINST POLICE MURDER

Saturday 22 June, 1.30pm  
Cleopatra's Needle, Charing Cross Embankment, London

March to rally at Hyde Park  
AGAINST POLICE MURDER  
DISBAND THE  
SPECIAL PATROL GROUP  
All IS branches to support.  
Stewards' meeting, 11am,  
8 Cottons Gardens, London E2

### WARWICK UNIVERSITY STUDENTS UNION

### SILENT MARCH

University of Warwick,  
Friday 21 June, 2pm,  
Coventry Precinct, 3.30pm  
IF YOU OPPOSE FASCISM  
AND RACISM,  
YOU COULD HAVE BEEN  
KEVIN GATELY

## LETTER FROM DERRY

**Why Johnnie Hume has nothing to do**

JOHN HUME is getting a bit of peace these days. As Bogside's Social Democratic and Labour representative, his 'phone used never to stop ringing.

There are more people being lifted now, more harassment and intimidation than ever before, but few contact John. It isn't, particularly, that they have lost faith in him personally.

It is more that the stock of all politicians here stands at an all time low since the collapse of the Sunningdale agreement under pressure from the recent loyalist strike.

As a result, the people are, in a sense, leaderless. The alternative to the SDLP has been the Republican groups—but traditionally they have been regarded as fighting men, not political men.

Now, in the sudden vacuum, they have a chance, almost for the first time, to seize the political initiative.

The chance comes from the tentative proposal by the Protestant para-military group, the Ulster Defence Association, for a multi-lateral three-months truce to be followed by talks between themselves and their 'Catholic' equivalent, with all 'politicians' excluded.

In the Belfast Sunday News, Sammy Smyth, press officer of the UDA, wrote this week: 'None of the Ulster politicians has given honest leadership.'

And lest he be misunderstood, he spelled out that he included Paisley, West and Craig in his strictures.

### REACTION

More and more Protestant workers have realised in the last five years that the Orange leaders, whom they had followed for generations, were not at all interested in common people.

In reaction, a new leadership dedicated to the preservation of the 'Protestant Way of Life'—sold out, Sammy Smyth says, by the likes of Brian Faulkner—came to the fore during the strike.

Whether talks between the IRA and the Protestant groups can amount to anything more than a dog fight, depends to some extent on what Mr Smyth means by 'the Protestant Way of Life'.

As the barman in the Bogside Inn said to me: 'He could mean the right to use contraceptives. On the other hand it could be the right to kill Catholics.'

'Now that is the sort of wee confusion we would need to get straightened out.'

One definition of the 'Protestant Way of Life' could certainly be accommodated within a free, united Ireland from which all British influence had been removed.

Indeed, that is what socialist and most republicans have been seeking for many years.

But it is unlikely that the blind, anti-Catholic bigotry which has been the stock-in-trade of Orange politics for generations—and as a result of which Protestant workers have gained real material benefit—can be disregarded so easily.

At any rate IRA-UDA talks will almost certainly take place in the next month or so and what ever the outcome they will be at least as meaningful as the barrage of pathetic phone calls which used to keep Johnny Hume awake at night.

**EAMONN McCANN**

# Butcher Bateman

## MR ASBESTOS SPEAKS HIS MIND

**RALPH MELTON BATEMAN**, new president of the employers' lobby the Confederation of British Industry, finally made his mark last week with a much publicised speech extolling the virtues of private enterprise and attacking the dreadful prospect of more nationalisation.

Bateman is capable of waxing lyrical on this theme. To take big business out of the hands of the private profiteers would, he insisted to his audience in Bath, 'reduce the freedom of the individual and damage the wealth-creating capacity of industry upon which the standard of living of all of us depends.'

Useful evidence on what his notions of personal freedom mean in practice can be obtained from a Glasgow man named Willie Hurst.

Willie has never met Ralph Melton Bateman, though he knows him well enough. Willie has worked for Turner and Newall, of which Bateman is chairman, most of his working life.

Willie doesn't work for Turner and Newall now though. He got the sack in 1970 for declining to work out of town. His widowed mother had gone blind and he had to get home each night to look after her.

This was, of course, an infringement of the company's freedom to have him work where it suited them. He clearly had to go.

### CONDUCT

Still, Willie was 'free' to go and work elsewhere. There was just one problem. By 1970, when he was sacked, Willie had got asbestosis. He contracted this progressive and incurable industrial disease as a result of being exposed to the known hazards of asbestos at Turner and Newall.

For the company to have protected him from such hazards would have cost money. It would have hampered them in the battle to compete. It would clearly have been a serious intrusion on their freedom to conduct their business on the most

economic lines.

The economic system Bateman supports has also brought rich rewards to the black miners of Rhodesia who mine much of Turner and Newall's asbestos.

In September 1972 3000 miners at the firm's Shabani mine, 250 miles west of Salisbury, went on strike for higher wages. Full consideration of their personal liberty was given when armed police were rushed in. They shot one black miner dead and left nine others lying wounded.

The African strikers were also demanding the vote, another demand which would definitely have damaged the wealth-creating capacity of industry.

The truth of the matter is that Bateman and his kind cherish one freedom and one freedom only—their freedom to make profits.

It is a freedom which will have to be taken away from them if the black miners and Willie Hurst of this world are to come into their own. And for that to happen something a little more radical than nationalisation and Anthony Wedgwood Benn is going to be necessary.



## It cost £50 to kill this man

**MATES** of Roy Thorpe dug feverishly after a trench collapsed at St John's Station, Lewisham and Roy and his friend Philip Wickison were completely buried.

After 20 minutes digging, the workers found the two men dead.

Last week the contractors responsible for the trench—Aubrey Watson—were up at Greenwich Magistrates Court charged under the Factory Acts with allowing the trench to be built too high without the necessary supports.

District Factory Inspector W A Dolling told the court that even with the best of soils, a trench needed supports when it got to 15 feet high. This trench was 20 feet high, and there were no supports.

He conveniently outlined some excuses for the company. They could not cut the trench at an angle, he said, because this would mean breaking into householders' gardens. Somehow, he forgot to mention that one of the householders, Keith Pretty, had withdrawn his objections to his garden being used two days before the two building workers were killed.

Other methods of making the trench safe, said Mr Dolling, would have been 'extremely expensive'.

Counsel for Aubrey Watson pleaded that it was 'easy to be wise after the event'.

The magistrate, Mr J W Cheeseman, said the highest penalty he could impose for this offence was £300. Aubrey Watson's representative replied that whether the fine was £100 or £300 made little difference. What mattered to the company was their reputation.

So the magistrate fined the company £100—£50 a life—and they all went off to lunch.

### THEY'RE JUST GOOD FRIENDS

'NO AID, No trade, Support the Chilean workers' is the Communist Party slogan everywhere—except where the Communist Party is the government.

For the government of Rumania is falling over itself to establish friendly commercial relationships with the Chilean junta. Last Friday Rumania's Minister of Foreign Trade and Minister of Mines signed a protocol of co-operation with the junta's Minister for Mines.

The Socialist Worker four-page leaflet listing the firms trading with Chile and putting the arguments for blacking is still available. Is there a firm trading with Chile in your town? It could be your firm. Copies 25 each (postage 5p for any number of copies) from IS Books, 255 Seven Sisters Road, London N4.

## Left victory over grants campaign

THE revolutionary left scored a victory at the emergency conference of the National Union of Students in London on Saturday.

The first was over the future of the campaign for higher grants, which the government is to put up next year by £150 for most students at universities and polytechnics.

But there will be no increase for all other students, whose grants will be at the mercy of their local education authority.

This is bound to cause considerable anger from those students who have not received an increase despite massive inflation in the last year.

Although much of the steam has gone out of the Grants Campaign, because of the bureaucratic manoeuvring of the NUS executive,

the basis exists for a national campaign in the Colleges of Education and Technical Colleges next autumn.

The main amendment passed on grants at the conference was submitted by supporters of the International Socialists. It called for rejection of the award and for the executive to organise a campaign next term on the demand for the abolition of discretionary awards.

It called for a co-ordinated fight against the increases in rents and food prices which many colleges want to introduce.

Some universities, caught in Labour's rent freeze, are trying to push up food prices by the maximum amount and then increase rents after Christmas. An increase in grants means nothing if colleges immediately

take back more than the increase.

Some colleges are already making plans for rent strikes next autumn to fight these price rises.

In the second debate at conference, the right-wing attempt to overturn the ban on fascist meetings in colleges was defeated.

A call for the policy to be reaffirmed was heavily defeated.

But conference passed an executive motion which, despite being hedged with qualification, gives continued backing for the mass mobilisation of students to disrupt the meetings.

Any doubts about the policy must have crumbled when Nick Mullen, from Middlesex Poly, went to the rostrum spattered with blood after the police riot in Red Lion Square.

## WHAT WE THINK

'THIS IS Marxism on the march,' says Tory Shadow Chancellor Carr of the policies of the Labour government, 'the most extreme and doctrinaire administration in living memory.'

When leading Tories make statements as daft as that, you can be sure that the general election campaign has started.

The Tories have a problem. Harold Wilson's government is carrying on Heath's policies. It is operating the Tory Phase Three pay law. Its 'social contract' is an agreement with the union chiefs, to try to hold back wage claims, of just the sort Heath tried to get in his months of talks with the TUC.

Chancellor Dennis Healey assures the CBI that 'nobody now believes that profits is a dirty word'. Wedgwood Benn explained in Bristol last week that 'the Labour Party is not against free enterprise'.

The cuts in public services made in Barber's last budget have been maintained by Healey. Callaghan's 're-negotiation' of Common Market entry terms is entirely acceptable to most Tories and to their big-business backers. Merlyn Rees carries on in Northern Ireland the identical policies that William Whitelaw operated.

What differences there are between the two parties are differences about tactics, about how best to persuade working people to accept cuts in living standards in order to boost profits. Both are thoroughly committed to capitalism.

But these differences of emphasis will not do to rally Tory supporters and stampede the more impressionable voters into a panic switch to Ted Heath. A stunt is needed.

So we have this carefully orchestrated propaganda campaign by the Tory Party, the Confederation of British Industry and the Aims of Industry. They want to con people into believing that the Labour government is about to introduce what the CBI president calls 'Communist-style state control'.

It is a sham battle. There is precious little difference between the Tory practice on state intervention and that of Labour.

The Tories nationalised Rolls-Royce. They maintained and extended state-holdings in a whole range of industries. They wouldn't dream of de-nationalising the mines or the railways. They poured public money into Concorde.

## State intervention

The Labour Party has always confined its nationalisation measures to industries that were either bankrupt or unable to expand enough to meet the needs of the capitalist class as a whole. It has always paid 'compensation' on proper capitalist principles. It has always imposed 'expert' managements to run the industries concerned on strict capitalist lines.

The differences between the parties, on this issue too, are merely differences of emphasis. The Tory bosses and the big business interests they represent no more believe in the state keeping out of industry than the bishops of the Church of England believe that the dead will rise from their graves on the day of judgment. Big business needs state intervention, state support, state money.

**The Labour Party's actual nationalisation proposals are as different from socialist nationalisation as chalk is from cheese.**

They propose to buy out the owners of some bankrupt industries which are now getting huge transfusions of public money (shipbuilding and, possibly, the aircraft industry). These will then be run on normal commercial lines.

They also propose to increase state holdings, such as already exist in British Petroleum etc, in a number of other industries. Measures of both these types have been introduced by Tory (and Liberal) governments in the past.

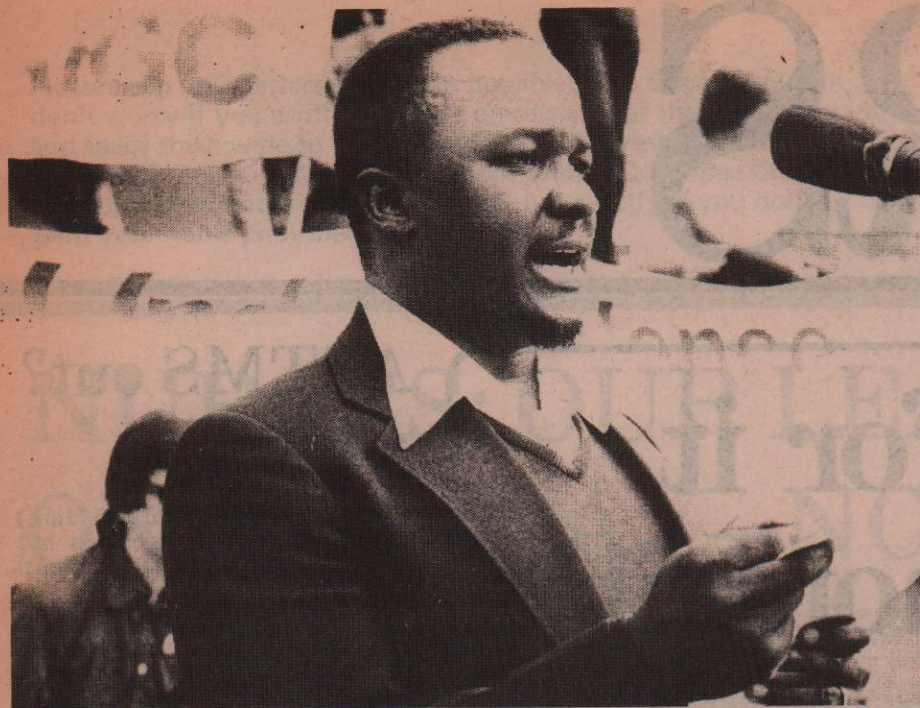
What the Labour government does not propose to do is to confiscate the wealth of the rich (called 'industry' by press and TV) or to replace production for profit by planned production for use under the democratic control of the working class.

But the sham battle started by the Tories has its advantages for the Labour ministers as well. If, in the pre-election atmosphere of the next few months, Labour gets a quite spurious 'left wing' image on the nationalisation issue it will be that much easier for the government to get away with its actual anti-working class policies.

The 'social con-trick', incomes policy (ie real wage cuts), the growing crisis in housing, the run-down of the health service, all the real issues can be obscured by the shadow boxing. That is what Tory and Labour leaders alike hope.

In the coming election it will be necessary for socialists to work for the return of the Labour government so that its fake 'left wing' pretensions are shown up for what they are.

**But there must be no let-up in the struggle against Labour's real policies, its Tory policies, and no illusions that any socialist measures can be expected from the Right Honourable gentlemen of the Parliamentary Labour Party.**



Mariano Matsinhe, leading freedom fighter from Mozambique, speaking to more than 3000 trade unionists and socialists in Trafalgar Square last Sunday. The demonstrators, who had marched from Hyde Park, demanded that Angola, Mozambique and Guinea-Bissau be granted immediate independence by Portugal. The substantial group of International Socialists on the march also called for support for striking workers in Portugal and for the release of socialists who have been interned by the Portuguese government.

Picture: Peter Harrap (Report)

## Portugal's postmen snub Spinola

35,000 PORTUGUESE postal workers came out on strike from Monday in support of a demand for a minimum wage of just under £25 a week (6000 escudos a month). The government has offered £18.75.

This is an official national stoppage. It comes after two months of negotiations had failed to produce an acceptable offer and is regarded by the Spinola government as a challenge to its authority.

Whether President Spinola will try to break the strike by force is doubtful. He is still relying heavily on the influence of the Communist Party which, according to the Financial Times, 'almost alone, has counselled caution in the use of the strike weapon at this time. Only yesterday (17 June) Gonsalves repeated this warning which has come frequently from the much-respected Communist leader Alvaro Cunhal, Minister Without Portfolio, who is proving a pillar of wisdom and caution in the provisional coalition government.'

Meanwhile, President Spinola has won the backing of the armed forces movement to curb the freedom of the press and of assembly.

Spinola, who is to confer with President Nixon this week, is said to have threatened to resign unless the armed forces movement agreed to moves to curb and isolate the left.

This is not a surprising attitude for a man who twice fought as a volunteer for fascism, first for General Franco in Spain and then for Adolf Hitler in Russia. But Spinola is not yet ready to break with the leadership of the main workers' parties. He is not yet strong enough. For the time being he is concentra-

ting his fire on the revolutionary left.

Right-wing social-democrat Francisco da Carneiro, Spinola's deputy prime minister, is enthusiastically supporting the return of censorship and the banning of demonstrations. The Communist Party is still in favour in spite of some cautious criticism of the regime.

One thing is sure. If Spinola succeeds in crippling the revolutionary left it will not be long before he turns on his present collaborators.

## WITHOUT COMMENT

'How is it possible honestly to discuss workers restraining their wage demands without pointing out at the same time that in a capitalist society this simply means putting more profits into the pockets of the employers?' (Editorial in Morning Star, 7 June 1974)

'But the pressure for still greater (wage) concessions is ever present which, if met, could well lead to widespread bankruptcies among the weaker sections of the economy and a rapid growth of unemployment and capital concentration.'

'An allied danger, for which there is already plenty of evidence, is that of economic provocation by elements of the old regime offering ridiculously large wage increases and other concessions.'

'A number of these have already been rejected under the astute guidance of the new trade union leadership'. (Article on Portugal in Morning Star, 3 June 1974).

## Working for Willie

WILLIE WHITELAW, 55, has been made chairman of the Conservative Party. He believes the Conservative Party 'stands for all our people'. He believes that Britain is One Nation, and that all the members of that nation are best represented by the Conservatives.

Pat Kelly is 55 too. He works in a Yorkshire glass factory. He does not believe Britain is one nation. He formed his political ideas working for 38 years as a miner in Scotland on land owned by the Whitelaw family.

The Whitelaws own a huge tract of land in Dunbartonshire, west of Glasgow. They charged one shilling for every ton of coal mined on their

land. 'We mined 500 tons a day,' says Pat. 'So the Whitelaws were making more than £100 a week just for owning the land under which we sweated for about £5 a week each.'

Pat worked for much of the time at Gartshore No 3 Colliery. The owner was a Tory MP, William Baird. 'I still remember how he used to amuse his guests at his rich parties,' says Pat. 'He arranged spectacular crashes between two pit-head locomotives.'

Life for the miners on the Whitelaw estate was no joke. Anybody caught poaching was put out of his house. If a man died, his widow was thrown out—you could only have a house if

you made profits for the coal-owners.

During the war there was a shortage of timber, so much of the timber on the Whitelaw estate was cut down to be used as pit props. It was totally unsuitable, being too soft and therefore extremely dangerous.

'When they nationalised the mines they compensated the landowners with £90 million. Think of it—£90 million for doing nothing except pocket their royalties! We had to pay that compensation, just as we had to pay the royalties,' said Pat Kelly.

'The Whitelaws were some of the worst of a very bad bunch—the Scottish landowners who were lucky enough to have coal on their land. I wouldn't trust any of them an inch.'

Pat Kelly, who left school at 14 and is a member of his working-man's club does not agree that he has anything in common with Willie Whitelaw, of Winchester and Cambridge, who is a member of the Carlton Club.

## Nobel brute

ARE you feeling sorry for honest, intelligent, not to say saintly, Henry Kissinger, winner of the Nobel Peace Prize, as he is harried by the brutes of the American press?

If so, you might care to recall what this supposed peacemaker extraordinaire said immediately after the Allende government came to power in Chile. 'Allende's election is a serious matter both for American interests in Chile and for the American government,' Kissinger said in Chicago on 15 September 1970. 'His election is serious in its implications for Latin America. But what is most alarming is that the election seriously undermines the national security of the United States in that it could have repercussions in France and Italy.'

## SIX MORE MINERS SHOT IN THE GOLDFIELDS

IN THE past three weeks at least six black miners have been killed by the police in South Africa and many injured. Guns, dogs, tear gas and water jets have been used to crush demonstrations.

Violent death is an occupational hazard in South Africa's mines. This year more than 600 miners will die in the mines through avoidable accidents. That's three deaths per shift.

This year alone some 37 miners have been killed as a result of other violence produced by the conditions of work on the mines and life in the prison-like compounds, where the miners are herded together in overcrowded conditions.

Meanwhile, the gold mining companies of South Africa are having their biggest bonanza ever, due to the unprecedented rise in the price of gold—now at 170 dollars (£70) an ounce, more than four times the former fixed price. The Anglo-American Corporation, which produces two-fifths of South Africa's

gold, is worth over £3000 million and its profits last year from gold alone increased by 75 per cent.

Now the gold mining companies dare to claim they are leading a 'social revolution' in South Africa because they are increasing the wages of the black workers. A 60 per cent increase over the past year gives miners an average £25 per month. The poverty line is above £50.

This still means that the total black wages bill is less than half the year's increase in profits.

The mines are losing workers at a considerable rate. The violence on the Orange Free State goldfields has led more than 10,000 to return to Lesotho and the government there is taking a firmer line over recruitment and treatment of the miners. After a plane crash in March in which 80 miners returning to Malawi were killed, the Malawi government stopped the South African recruiting—a ban which is still in force.

# LETTERS

## Desperate Dan and 'his' labour movement

'IT IS necessary to sound a warning against the extravagant claims of certain white-collar organisations who do not owe the same fidelity as the manual workers' unions to the labour movement. We do not ask for free collective bargaining in order that sections of white collar workers can obtain for themselves a relative improvement at the expense of millions of manual workers on whom our industrial prosperity depends.'

Not the words of some notorious right-wing official, but the words of Danny 'one time darling of the left' McGarvey, president of the Boilermakers Society, at the biennial conference last week. McGarvey had been extolling delegates to temper their wage claim. It shows the depths that trade union officials ('left' or 'right') will sink to in trying to cajole their respective rank and file into accepting Labour's social compact.

According to the McGarveys of this world proof of one's 'fidelity to the labour movement' is wage restraint not militant action in defence of living standards.

There is within his arguments serious threats to rank and file trade union unity. The fact that at the moment nurses and civil servants are fighting alone against the Labour government's continued implementation of Phase Three is a reflection on the ability of union leaders of the more traditional unions to temporarily dampen wage militancy.

Labour's social compact, the continuance of Phase Three, penalises precisely the lower paid, less powerful sections of workers such as the nurses. Nurses don't want lectures on fidelity. They deserve the right of the support of those sections of the labour movement that do have the economic power to smash Phase Three. Unfortunately such support will not be conjured out of the posturing of union officials, but will only be fostered by genuine rank and file unity in action.

Those of us who are manual workers should welcome the militancy of our white collar brothers and sisters. But not just welcome, we should start showing that we can fight too!-JOHN DEASON, Wigan.

## Militant? who are you kidding?

WE WERE amazed to see (8 June) the report on the Automotive Products strike for the nurses, and in particular the quotation from our convenor, Ivor Bennett.

He's the sort of bloke who gets right-wing bureaucrats a bad name, and it's bad enough having him as convenor, without seeing him in what we consider *our* paper.

The stoppage lasted barely half an hour, not an hour as you report. Bennett, and the chairman of the shop-stewards committee, Josh Niblett, realised that quite a few of us weren't prepared to be simply a stage army for them, and in fact wanted to give the nurses 'rightful support' by marching off with them.

So, in their speeches, they said nothing of the demands of the nurses, nor why they need our support. Instead, they told us in a couple of lines how marvellous we were for coming out, and then spent the next few minutes pleading with us to be equally marvellous and go back to work as soon as the nurses had marched off.

We were even told that by doing this we 'would be showing the solidarity that AP workers are known

WHEN NURSES in the trade unions talk about the collapse of the National Health Service they are not exaggerating. Look at the mushrooming nurses' agencies and private patients' facilities outside the National Health Service.

Look at the ever increasing waiting lists, even for major operations. Like the Liverpool girl who was told recently that she would have to wait for three years for a vital heart operation. Look at the massive cuts in all social budgets under successive governments.

The staff shortages in every hospital in the country, the ever decreasing number of nurses starting their training, and the ever increasing number of nurses who leave as soon as they qualify.

This is no joke. It is not a matter of concern *only* for hospital workers. It concerns every worker in this country. We are talking about the possibility of having to pay for whatever hospital treatment you get.

If hospital workers are defeated, we will all suffer. This is why we feel entitled to ask for support from every trade unionist who thinks a health service is worth fighting for.



Much of Britain's food comes from the 'Third World' while big estates in Scotland are for the rich's huntin', shootin' and fishin'

for'. Now we aren't against such stoppages, far from it. But we want them turned from a bureaucrat's public relations exercise, purely and simply, into shows of real support for the nurses, that can really help them to win.

And quoting blokes such as Bennett in the paper will do absolutely nothing for the nurses, nor for us.-CHARLIE HORE, RICHARD CROUCHER, Warwick.

... You quote with approval the words of works convenor Ivor Bennett who in fact did his level best to prevent a total walk-out. Second, and far more important you do not say how the enthusiasm of our workmates was. If a few of us had had a megaphone the whole works would have been down the road despite the convenor.

Our deep sympathy for the nurses is no isolated spark. It is general. Let their officials call for mass industrial action and they would get it at the drop of a hat. That is now the only way the nurses can win.-JONATHAN PRUS, Leamington.

## NHS: fight for it -or die without it!



No, this isn't Stalag 17, Siberia or Long Kesh. It's Queen Mary's Hospital in West Ham, London. This is what our rulers regard as our National Health Service.

The sort of support which freed the Pentonville dockers, got the miners the two biggest rises in their history, and got the Engineering Union off the fine imposed by the Industrial Relations Court.

A number of nurses' action groups throughout the country have come together to form a

National Co-ordinating Committee, which has called for a day of action.

We appeal to all workers to take whatever action they can on that day. Help us fight for *our* Health Service.-JUDITH JONES, (NUPE Steward) nurse at Salford Royal Hospital.

## BACK TO THE LAND -WITH TRACTORS

ONE DOES not have to be a prophet of doom to disagree with Duncan Hallas' Talking About Socialism article saying (15 June) that overpopulation is not at present a very real problem. In Britain at present we grow only 50 per cent of our own food, and our so-called 'prosperity' is only achieved by the manufacture of a large quantity of industrial goods, some of which are luxury items, which will only be required by food-exporting countries until their population also rises.

Surely, modern technology should be concentrated where it is most necessary, that is on agriculture? A return to the older methods of 'natural' agriculture is, of course, not on. Such scientific advances as the use of safe pesticides and the sensible use of fertilisers should not be denigrated.

However, one could point to the fact, that in Scotland, too large an area is devoted to hunting, fishing and shooting. One cannot easily decide whether this is a technical or political problem, for it is well-known that 'socialist planning' of the bureaucratic type does not automatically ensure a sufficient supply of food.-JOAN MARTIN, London E5.

FOLLOWING on from the letter (15 June) on SOGAT and threshold agreements, clause F in the agreement says—'payments to Apprentices and learners will be based on the normal percentage proportions of the adult rates, irrespective of age'.

So why must I and many thousands of apprentices have to take only a percentage of £1.20? I only got 54p. Many, I think, got below 54p. I condemned my union NGA for agreeing to the clause.-PAUL CANNINGS, Rochdale.

## We want them cheap!

JOHN MURPHY (8 June) wants cheap books. So do we.

But he ought to know that more than half of the price of our books goes to bookshops (including IS Books) and to the author.

High prices are unavoidable unless books are printed and sold in enormous numbers. But for this to be possible for political publishers like ourselves, the books have to be used as propaganda by political organisations such as the International Socialists.

There should be no article on health and safety at work in Socialist Worker, without it mentioning Kinnersly's book The Hazards of Work, and also how to get hold of it—price, reduced rates for trade unionists, address and so on.

The same applies to articles on the Communist Party on Chile, on Portugal, they should all mention the relevance of Birchall's Workers Against The Monolith.

Better still, if the IS membership could guarantee before publication orders of 3000 for any title of political relevance to it—such as Cliff's State Capitalism in Russia, or Harman's Revolution and Bureaucracy in Eastern Europe, or The Bolsheviks and the October Revolution, or Hird's Employers' Profits or any of the other 24 titles we're bringing out in the next year the effect on our print orders and therefore on our prices would be fantastic.

Next month we're publishing—at 50p!—a magnificent book, Chile: the Gorillas are Amongst Us by Helios Prieto.

We hope IS members will use it as it is intended, a cutting edge for politics. It's cheap.-ANNE BENEWICK and NINA KIDRON, Pluto Press, London NW1.

## ASTMS out? not yet!

YOU incorrectly stated (15 June) that North East radiographers had called for an *immediate* national strike.

In fact the mass meeting asked the ASTMS National Executive to support an all-out strike with emergency cover to take place after the deadline of 4 July by which time management must come up with a satisfactory offer.

Our members also backed the action taken by ASTMS delegates in rejecting an enquiry. We feel that this is a time-wasting device—the radiographers claim was put in over four years ago.

You may be interested to know that this resolution has now received the backing of the No 9 Divisional Council of ASTMS in whose name it will now go to the National Executive.

Our members will be going to demonstrate in London on 6 July, two days after the deadline expires. ASTMS has decided to back this national demonstration which will start at 12 noon in Wimpole Street, London, W1.—ADRIAN SUGAR, Middlesbrough.

## The Fascists

HAVING just returned from the anti-National Front demonstration which ended in the fracas at Red Lion Square I feel it is about time the International Socialists made a positive decision on tactics at demonstrations.

When it concerns the marching of fascists on the streets our line must be tougher.

True work in industry, in the trade union movement, agitating and decimating any fascist's arguments are vital. But the battle of the streets must not be left by International Socialists as being just a student revolutionary affair.

The activities of police and the mounted ones, leaves us in no doubt that revolutionaries will get no help against fascism.-NEIL DAVIES, London.

## In defence of Russian state capitalism

I GET the impression that some International Socialists are motivated by anti-sovietism than anti-capitalism. Your reference to 'Russian state capitalism' in the 20 April issue of Socialist Worker makes me wonder whether you are potentially naive or whether you are not really interested in achieving a socialist Britain.

Whatever elites, stratas, bureaucracies or privileged sections may exist in the Soviet Union today, the fact that land and industry are publicly or co-operatively owned and *exploitation ended* means the society is by definition socialist.

Perhaps you may have heard of public consumption funds—money that would go into private shareholders' pockets in a capitalist society but used in the Soviet Union to provide a genuinely free health service and some of the best low-cost housing in the world.

I'm sure many of the articles in Socialist Worker are playing a useful role in bringing people into struggle, but in the final analysis, if the basic motivations of the paper's staff are more anti-communist than anti-capitalist then the long term effect will be just as bad if not worse than the capitalist press.-I PEARCE Birmingham 30.

Please keep your letters as short as possible, type them if you can, don't worry if you can't. But write on one side of the paper only, and space them wide so we can read them! Address them to LETTERS, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. All letters must be signed—but specify if you don't want your name published.

# Postal Points

## NURSES: OUR LEADER'S ON HOLIDAY—NOT US!

CONGRATULATIONS on the excellent article (8 June) you printed on the 'leaders' of the nurses struggle last week.

As an ancillary worker in the National Union of Public Employees I have been involved during recent weeks in trying to recruit nurses into unions. The support from our 'leaders' has been minimal, they prepared as for a national campaign to recruit nurses in February and we're still waiting for it to start.

They seem to prefer scoring points over the Confederation of Health Service Employees to getting down to a serious joint campaign to unionise nurses. Meanwhile

the NUPE officer responsible for South Yorkshire hospitals has chosen this crucial moment in the nurses campaign to go off on holiday! In NUPE at least we have an opportunity to democratise our union in the major re-organisation to be decided at a conference next year. Our full time officers see this as a chance to improve their own position and influence and are trying to prevent the involvement of rank and file union members.

About 20 active NUPE members representing local authority workers, nurses, ancillary workers and ambulancemen met in Leeds last week to discuss re-organisation as a way of increasing the democracy in the union. It was decided to spread the debate to all NUPE members in our area by holding a series of meetings round the subject and the hope was expressed that the same will happen in other areas and the rank and file paper Hospital Worker can co-ordinate a national campaign for a democratic union to serve the needs of its member, not its officials.—T SOUTH, Leeds.

## Thanks! I'm still trying

THANK you for publishing my case (27 April) under the heading How the Postal Workers Union Helped a Militant. I would not, by the way, classify myself as a militant.

Soon after the article appeared I wrote to Tom Jackson to ensure he knew all the facts. At the same time my branch instructed its delegate and the district organiser to put an emergency motion to the UPW annual conference unless satisfaction was received in the meantime.

The motion was to be to the effect of deploring the conduct of national officials and calling for action for my reinstatement.

It was subsequently arranged that the motion would be put by the district council. Warnings of 'palm-offs' were given to the delegates.

At the annual conference my branch secretary was given the promise that the whole case was to be reopened and that the national organiser, Arty Mash, was to visit me, the branch committee and other interested parties.

This promise was accepted and the emergency motion dropped. Since then I have heard nothing. I have again written to Tom Jackson to ensure the silence is not due to a lapse



Jackson of the Postal Workers. Don't turn away, Tom, someone's trying to attract your attention...

of memory.

The conduct of the UPW national officers in this affair has put into question principles on which there should have been no question. The outcome is therefore of consequence to the UPW and the trade union movement as a whole.

I thank Socialist Worker both personally and as a trade unionist for upholding these principles. I will write again when the affair is settled whatever the outcome.—GORDON MOWBRAY, Oxford.

## Where's your High St gone?

SOME OF US in Cardiff have been fighting a long campaign against the town centre redevelopment. This is one of the most important ways the property boys have carved up our towns and made their vast fortunes.

One feature is the way they link up with local councils. The council is crucial in getting the town rearranged to suit the developer.

It would be useful to get a picture of what the property boys have done nationally. Could Socialist Worker readers send us details of local examples they know about? The following are some of the tricks of the trade to look out for.

What profits do the developers make? Do the ratepayers make a profit or a loss? Has it all been fixed up behind closed doors? What do the public know about the plans or the financial deal? Have people ever successfully changed plans?

Is there any difference between Labour and Tory councils when it comes to dealing with developers? How much housing has been demolished to make way for the redevelopments? What happened to the people? Was there winking? By the developer or by the council?

Has your local plan meant empty shops, precincts and office blocks? Or if the new shops, offices, have been let has it affected trade elsewhere in the town? Can you see where the developer/council has

arranged new roads, bus stations, car parks to suit their new development at the cost of the rest of the town? Has the central plan affected bus, car and road plans throughout the entire town—at people's cost and convenience?

Are the new shops convenient or are they herded into certain areas and have people to trek up stairs, ramps, subways, etc? To 'protect' the centre, has your council prevented other developments in the suburbs or outside the town?

Have the council/developer put social and entertainments provision in the plan and then gradually dumped them?

Is there evidence of higher prices in the shops to match the increased

rents to traders? Do local traders get squeezed out of the new developments?

What buildings and amenities have been destroyed? Breweries, for example, often agree to demolish several fine old pubs in a centre in return for licences elsewhere, or a few new horrors in the precinct.

These are some of the main tricks. Perhaps readers will know of others. Also, important questions like where does the finance come from—perhaps trade union or pension funds? The big trick is that capitalists have the power to make us exploit ourselves.—BOB DUMBLETON, Cardiff International Socialists.

## Jenkins liberalism

I IMAGINE many of your readers like me were relieved, and grudgingly impressed by Home Secretary Roy Jenkins' amnesty for illegal immigrants this spring. It seemed he had flown bravely in the face of the racist horror stories of coloured people arriving here in plagues and hordes by night. But I have recently discovered that his decision does not apply, among others, to those who entered Britain by presenting forged papers, who were admitted for a limited period but stayed longer. Who entered while subject of a deportation order or who were stowaways or seamen.

In fact the only people it seems to have applied to are the ones who were treated so prominently in the media—and who, I gather, were but a small fraction of those suffering the state's brutal immigration laws). Jenkins had his eye on the liberals, not the immigrants. The amnesty is a farce. It's not a brave gesture at all—in fact, could there be any more cynical capitulation to publicity?—CHARLES BUXTON, London E1.

## READERS COMMENTS ON THE LETTER (8 JUNE) FROM THE 11 WORKERS AT RED-FEARN GLASS AND OUR REPLY . . . ON THE IRA, THE ARAB GUERRILLAS AND THE PRICE SISTERS . . .

YOU ARE DOING A GRAVE DIS-SERVICE to the cause of socialism by failure to propagate, in fact, by opposing, the marxist attitude towards individual terrorism . . . No marxist advocates such actions, on the contrary, they condemn them in the strongest possible terms. They not only do nothing to advance the workers' cause, they set it back: foster the pathetic illusion that a conspiratorial elite can change the course of history: and weaken the struggle to build a mass movement. Ardent, courageous and self-sacrificing young people such as the Price sisters are imbued with the spirit of nationalism—essentially reactionary in a world where only socialist internationalism is progressive—and with faith in terrorism as the only effective way to freedom. This is infantile, completely futile, destructive to the cause of revolutionary socialism, with which it has nothing to do . . . The revolutionary workers' movement thrashed this question out years ago, in Russia. You yourselves have published some of the material in International Socialism. You must also draw a sharp, unmistakably clear line between the revolutionary socialist attitude and the terrorist activities of the IRA and the Arab 'guerillas'.—HUGO DEWAR, London SW11.

WRONG POLITICS, WRONG PLACE, WRONG . . . The IRA bombing tactics are directed towards shops and pubs and seem to preclude attacks on industry . . . Figures disprove the assumption that bombings attack British capital. In 1973 the manufacturing output in Ulster grew 9 per cent—a total of 22 per cent since 1969 . . . The IS should condemn the terrorist activities of the IRA, the UDA, the UVF and the British Army . . . I believe the IRA is necessary for the protection of the Catholic people . . . But present IRA offensive prolongs the stay of British troops in Ireland giving the Craigs and Paisleys the comfort and security they need . . . IS should devote its energies to achieving a complete withdrawal of troops.—ANGUS C MACDONALD, Grangemouth, Scotland.

BOMBING PEOPLE INTO SOLIDARITY . . . Does bombing workers in England protect Catholic workers in Ulster? Of course it doesn't. Those who bomb workers bomb their own army. Support from the working class in England will come through understanding and the recognition of the mutual enemy. The English working class cannot be bombed into solidarity.—LL, Hants.

WHERE DO THE PROVOS STAND? . . . The real issue is the building of a non-sectarian working class movement for the overthrow of capitalism. The provisional IRA don't stand for any such movement. Their indiscriminate attacks in city centres is to be as strongly condemned as the protestant sectarian killings . . . It is the policy of the British government as it always has been to foster hatred between Protestant and Catholic . . . We must concentrate on building up a movement which is socialist and not sectarian.—JEFF SIMPSON, SUE WILLIAMS, London, E1.

THE PRICE SISTERS . . . I strongly object to your article (8 June) Jenkins Says it: Let Them Die, when you say 'Mr Jenkins throws the full weight of his humanitarianism behind the forces of law and order' . . . These poor misguided souls are not as defenceless as you suggest. It's sad that such a socially aware paper should succumb to the likes of these people and provide the pressure and publicity they require.—K S COOPER, Birmingham 31.

YOU'RE NOT UP TO IT . . . I can't agree with the extent of your support for the IRA and other guerrilla groups . . . The position of the Irish and the Palestinians may be intolerable, but there are many ways of trying to obtain justice, and to support violence because one is sympathetic with their ultimate aims is a desperately serious mistake. As socialists, we should be very, very careful about sanctioning violence against ordinary people . . . As journalists, you must ensure that violence is properly explained, and you

must criticise senseless barbarism where criticism is due. I don't think your performance has been adequate on either so far.—GRAHAM PARK, St Albans.

YOU SEEM TO BE RIGHT . . . While agreeing with the content of the story on the Price Sisters in respect of the actions of Roy Jenkins and the British government and their despicable treatment towards the sisters, I feel it is necessary to point out that anyone who comes in contact with Socialist Worker for the first or second time will fail to realise through that article the opposition which IS displays towards terrorism . . . Workers often fail to see our reasoning behind our support for the IRA and the Price sisters—therefore each article which appears in their defence, especially front page ones, must be precise and detailed as to why we do this.—JIM BARLOW, Dundee.

THE MAIN POINT that concerns the Price Sisters should be that they are forced into making the only possible protest available to them, to obtain rights which this country hypocritically claims to give to political prisoners while at the same time making it almost impossible to be categorized as such. We must point out that the aims of the IRA are in no way connected with the society we hope to build and that while understanding their grievance we do not recognise their approach to dealing with it.—AUSTIN DANKS, Coventry.

HONESTLY WRONG? . . . I give whole-hearted support to the letter . . . Also my total condemnation of that-ahem!—your honestly held opinions to the contrary.—W A CONROY, Gloucester.

YES, WE DO . . . Do you not know of the incidents of Rome Airport, and Lydda Airport, of countless incidents in N Ireland and in this country where many hundreds of innocent men women and children have been mutilated and killed? As for the pathetic justification of the murder of the Israeli children the fact that one of the guerrillas had been shot—well how socialist! How well you play into the hands of the capitalist class in your refusal to condemn this obscene violence, because the other side use it . . . There are genuine international socialists involved in trying to free their countries of the foreign capitalist oppressors.—B J HOLBROOK, Bristol.

FACTS . . . Socialist Worker should have a thorough analysis of the IRA, its roots ideology, structure, finance, trade union support, to help me and other readers who aren't satisfied the paper has shown what it is that distinguishes the IRA from being simply a fervently nationalistic perhaps fascist organisation.—PAUL ANSELL, Portsmouth.

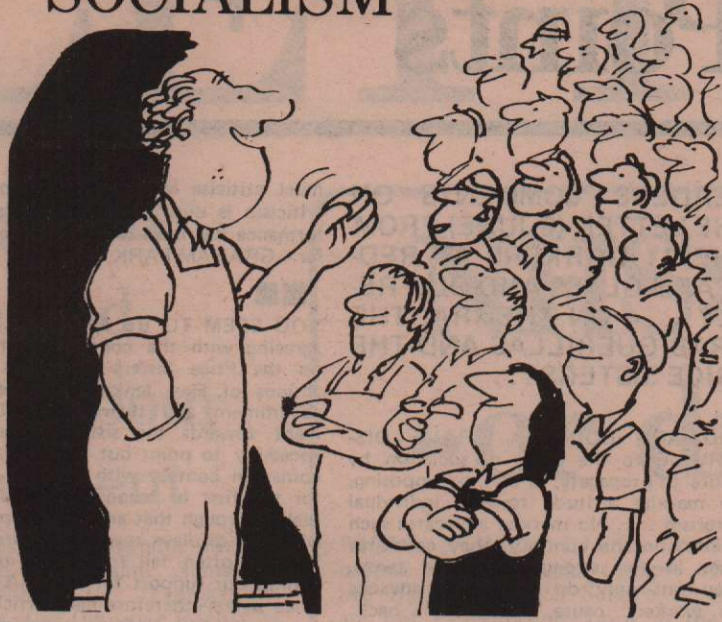
The paper will make a further reply next week . . .



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## TALKING ABOUT SOCIALISM



OVER A CENTURY ago the scientist Michael Faraday invented a simple method of testing the amount of insoluble dirt in water.

He made up a set of glass jars, each containing a different known weight of dirt, and topped them up with water. Then he shook them up and dropped into each a small piece of white cardboard. The time taken for the card to disappear in the murky water was noted and so a dirt/time chart made up. The shorter the time, the higher the dirt concentration.

Armed with this, Faraday went to Westminster Pier and tried out his method on the Thames. The bits of card he dropped in disappeared almost as soon as they hit the water. The river was choked with solid filth.

Then, as now, the Thames was a major source of drinking water.

The point is that pollution is in no sense a new problem. It is as old as capitalism. Anyone who has any doubts about the matter should read Engels' book, *The Condition of the Working Class in England in 1844*. (It is available in a Panther paperback at 40p.)

Here is his famous description of the view from Ducie bridge in central Manchester. 'At the bottom flows, or rather stagnates, the Irk, a narrow, coal-black, foul-smelling stream, full of debris and refuse, which it deposits on the shallower right bank.'

### Residue

'But besides this, the stream itself is checked every few paces by high weirs, behind which slime and refuse accumulate and rot in thick masses. Above the bridge are tanneries, bone mills and gas-works, from which all drains and refuse find their way into the Irk, which receives further the contents of all the neighbouring sewers and privies. It may be easily imagined, therefore, what kind of residue the stream deposits.'

This was in the very heart of what was then the greatest industrial city on earth, in a district crammed with working-class dwellings.

Now the cause of this filthy pollution was not ignorance. The methods of efficient drainage and public sanitation were well understood in the 19th century. They had been understood for centuries. Indeed, the ancient Rome of 2000 years ago had a very much better public drainage system than the working-class districts of Leeds or Manchester in the 1840s.

### Dumping

The cause was the pursuit of private profit above all other considerations. The cause was capitalism. And that, at bottom, is the cause of the pollution problem today.

It is, and always has been, possible to avoid the dumping of poisonous waste-products. Many can be made harmless—or even useful.

But all this costs money. And there is little or no profit in it. So, in a society where profiteering is the driving force of the economy, anti-pollution measures are undertaken only grudgingly.

## It's a dirty business

They do get taken, of course, usually after some disaster or great scandal. Engels re-published his book in 1892 and in his new introduction he noted improvements in some of the conditions he had described. He also noted the reasons for them.

'Again, the repeated visitations of cholera, typhus, smallpox and other epidemics have shown the British bourgeois the urgent necessity of sanitation in his towns and cities, if he wishes to save himself and his family from falling victims to such diseases.'

It was the great cholera epidemic of 1831 and its threatened return in 1848 that produced the first Public Health Act (1848), a fairly half-hearted measure that was nonetheless described by a leading Liberal as 'a vast infringement on the liberty of individuals!'

### Abuse

Today, technology makes possible new pollution problems every year. It makes them possible but it does not cause them.

The men who dump cyanide in tips that drain into the public water supply are not the innocent victims of technological advance. They know very well what they are doing. So do the Japanese capitalists who dump organic mercury compounds into the sea.

But profits come first. And as each abuse is eventually suppressed, new ones spring up.

What needs to be grasped by the numerous people who are rightly concerned about these 'ecological' problems is that there is no long-term solution without a planned economy and the suppression of both private profiteering and competitive state accumulation of capital.

The attack on technology as such, which many fall into, is reactionary. We certainly do not want to go back to a more 'natural' economy where the majority are condemned to a life of back-breaking toil.

Duncan Hallas

# RED AGAINST THE BLACK

I WENT to Brescia on 31 May to attend the funeral of six comrades who had been slaughtered by a fascist bomb three days earlier while demonstrating against the fascists.

There were half a million of us in Brescia that day—the biggest anti-fascist demonstration Italy has ever known. Workers came from all over Italy.

A four-hour general strike was absolutely solid and added strength to the demonstration. Even before the meeting started, the fascists had been driven off the streets of most Italian towns and their headquarters sacked.

By early morning, the town was brimming over with people. Banners, placards, red flags everywhere. Thousands of trade union and factory banners, those of the democratic parties, of the partisan associations, of the revolutionary left.

From nine in the morning the demonstrators filed uninterruptedly before the coffins. At 2.30pm, when the ceremony officially began, tens of thousands were still waiting to go through the square.

The president of Italy, a Christian Democrat, was there. So were the representatives of the armed forces. They are the very same people who have allowed the fascists to organise.

As the president started speaking, a massive shout gathered momentum outside the square: 'Ban the Social Movement. Death to the Christian Democrats who protect it!' Suddenly the square itself responded as massive applause greeted the chant.

Applause, shouts and raised fists greeted the more militant speeches—total silence for the official Communist Party line that workers do not administer justice and the struggle against the fascists must be carried out through the democratic institutions.

When the coffins are moved towards the cemetery they pass slowly between thousands of raised fists. Some of the older members of the Communist Party and ex-partisans stand to attention. Four coffins are followed by the flags of the Communist Party, one by that of the revolutionary socialist Avanguardia Operaia organisation.

From thousands of windows the people of Brescia give their salute. Many faces streaming with tears. At the end, softly at first and then gathering momentum, comes the chorus of the Internationale, as the workers proclaim yet again that the old and new resistance to fascism is militant and red.



The two members of Avanguardia Operaia killed by the fascist bomb, Luigi Pinto (top) and Giulietta Banzi

## by Andreas Nagliati

WHO HAS JUST RETURNED FROM ITALY

demonstrations of anger against the fascists, came at a time of deep economic crisis in Italy. The balance of payments deficit is the worst ever—and so is inflation.

The attempt to make the working class pay for the crisis has met with great resistance and militancy. The use of the referendum on divorce to prove the existence of a silent right-wing majority, on which to base a reactionary presidential republic, has dismally failed. The opposite happened. The Catholic monolith cracked and a left majority was proved by a thumping 60-40 vote.

The ruling class is desperately

looking around for solutions and quickly running out of them.

The most reactionary capitalists are clearly looking for a fascist solution. The fascist party, the Italian Social Movement (MSI), collects about 10 per cent of the national vote. Under a recently passed law for the state finance of political parties it stands to collect about £4 million a year. Linked to it are action squads: the SAM (Mussolini Action Squads) and Ordine Nuovo (New Order), now disbanded and reformed under the name Ordine Nero (Black Order).

## CONTROL

The fascist links with the army, police and secret service are considerable. But after the Brescia killings, the wave of popular indignation, demands for the outlawing of the MSI and militant anti-fascist actions have taken their toll. The government has been forced to take token anti-fascist action. A few small fish have been arrested, the press has been conducting a campaign against the black squads.

The Italian Communist Party has been waiting since 1948 to enter a coalition government. It has three million members, gets more than a quarter of the votes and controls the largest of Italy's three union federations. But it cannot afford to join the government now. That government would have to take openly repressive measures against the Italian workers and this would lead to a loss of members for the Party and a massive decrease in support.

In the short run, the crisis is not capable of any 'new' solution. Italy will still be ruled by an uneasy and unstable alliance of members of the Socialist and Christian Democratic Parties. But this is only buying time. It can offer no solutions to the basic crisis.

Andreas Nagliati will write two articles for Socialist Worker which will analyse further the present turmoil in Italy.

## The politics of Lenin

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# The housing crisis

PICTURE: REPORT

## ...FOR THE COUPLE WHO KEEP BUYING TWO LOTS OF SPUDS

THE advice parents usually give their children is: 'Get married and settle down'. Two months ago Shan and I got married. The process of settling down hasn't gone so smoothly.

First we couldn't afford a mortgage—who can? The council house waiting list in Stockport is 3000. So we were pushed into the arms of the private landlord.

We did think of taking over the Centre Point of Stockport, Europe House, which cost £2 million and is still lying empty after a year. The spokesman for Simon Engineering, the firm who built it, told us: 'We honestly cannot say we have an immediate prospect of getting someone to move in.'

Anyway, we finally got a 'flat' at the top of a terraced house, converted sharing bathroom with two others, at £9.50 a week. Very reasonable.

The rent takes half my take-home pay on a flat week as a guard for the British Railways Board, or, if you look at it another way, practically all Shan's monthly wage as a third-year student nurse. So you can't complain can you?

Shan and I both work shit work. Sorry, shift work. The first week, we did consider divorce on the grounds of non-consummation while briefly chatting as I got into bed and Shan got out.

Shan's shifts have some sort of order, but as anyone who works for British Rail train crews will know, you're on any time, day or night.

The month after we got married, my shifts started each week at 2.52am, 5.11pm, 6.41am, 1.11pm. Shan's started in the same weeks at 8am, 9pm, 11am and 9pm. So many times we hardly see each other. When we do, the conversation usually goes like this: 'Get some milk in.'

'I have.'

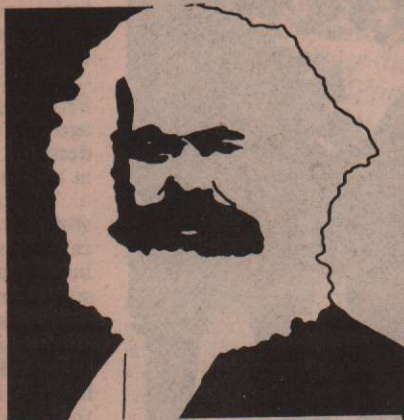
'Well, get some veg and eggs.'

Or I'll come home with some shopping and find Shan's already bought the same thing. Anyone want 20 pounds of spuds?

Anyway, I know our situation's not uncommon, but next time you hear the 'free press' prattling on about the train drivers' taking action for more money—ask the question, who wouldn't? The pay is lasts 15 to 20 years, and the pay is £28 a week. That's for taking you to your homes and your jobs.

But we must keep the wheels of profit turning day and night, mustn't we?

**Newman Smith**



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## FOR THE LIBERAL PEER WITH FIVE BATHROOMS AND A CONSCIENCE

LORD 'Tim' Beaumont is a millionaire who 'feels very deeply' about the housing problem in Britain and is constantly pouring money into the Liberal Party in the hope that it will solve it. The Liberal Party did not vote against the Tories' Housing Finance Act when first introduced, and still doesn't oppose the raising of council house rents. The Liberal-controlled council in Liverpool, for instance can hardly wait till the end of the rent

freeze to soak its tenants there.

Lord Beaumont and his wife are in trouble. They find it awkward living in Hampstead and want to move nearer the centre of London.

So they're putting their place—ten bedrooms, five bathrooms, five garages, 'staff flat'—up for sale. Asking price £800,000.

That's what an industrial worker on average wages takes home (after tax) in 500 years.



McGarvey: A transfer?

## DANNY THE TED

DELEGATES to the Boilermakers' union conference last month were surprised and—some of them at any rate—shocked by an amazing attack by Dan McGarvey, their president, on white-collar unions and militancy.

After praising the Labour government for everything it has done, McGarvey said: 'The social compact must apply to all, and not only to those who recognise the close relationship between the trade union and Labour movements. As much as we can expect in the trade union movement is that there should be no reduction in the living standards of working people.'

Some explanation for McGarvey's outburst is now available. His name is being bandied about as the likely chairman of a new nationalised shipyard corporation which might include

Upper Clyde Shipbuilders, Cammell Laird and Harland and Wolff, Belfast.

Who better to keep down the demands for higher wages and better conditions for the shipyard workers than 'fiery' Danny, the newspapers' puppet militant?

McGarvey's left image, of course, is a lot of nonsense. Militants in the building trade should remember that McGarvey signed the infamous Cameron Report on the Barbican strike in 1966-67 which hounded the militants and victimised shop stewards.

Perhaps more than any other trade union leader in the country, McGarvey represents the bankruptcy of traditional left politics in the unions. He has followed exactly in the path of his predecessor, who was known in the press as 'terrible

Ted' Hill for his allegedly militant past, but who died as a corrupt and reactionary drunkard in the House of Lords.

### Citizen Kane

JOCK KANE, Labour Lord Provost of Edinburgh, has written a long letter to The Times protesting at columnist, Bernard Levin's attack on Edinburgh's attitude to the International Arts Festival. He complains at Levin's suggestion that he is a 'mean burgher'.

I can substantiate Mr Kane's claim. He is not a 'mean burgher' at all. Nor are the people who have given him money in the past.

From 1964 to 1968, Kane worked as a 'housing consultant' for T Dan Smith. He advised the city authorities about the Dan Smith/Poulson Open Systems Building methods.

## The Sun sets on the Suffolk stripper

IT IS with sadness that I return to the press treatment of sex court cases. All week we have been treated to the full details of a dancer, who has featured in a rape case in Norfolk. She alleged she was raped by a police officer.

The press, so quick to criticise Socialist Worker a few weeks ago for daring to name a perverted peer and a broken-down property speculator who unsuccessfully alleged they had been blackmailed by the singer Janie Jones, have not only named the raped dancer but also blazoned a photograph showing her in suitably scant clothing. In page after page of 'court reporting' she has been spared nothing in the description of the assault.

Compare this 'coverage' with the

reports of another interesting sex case, which at first sight looks as titillating as the Norfolk rape case. At Ipswich Crown Court on Monday last week four men were charged with sponsoring a striptease in an Ipswich pub.

Two young women who took part in the strip show appeared for the prosecution. Both told the court that they had given exactly the same show for which the publican was being charged at numerous functions staged by or on behalf of the police force.

One said: 'I have given the identical act at police stag nights at Luton, Oxford, Nottingham, Watford Lowestoft and Great Yarmouth.'

She went on to say, however, that her act which was 'not particularly

strong' and was not 'strong' enough for most of the policemen who ogled in the audience. 'The police ask for the strongest acts—the girls that show the most,' she said.

She went on to claim that at a police party at the Metropolitan Police College at Watford, a police officer had undressed and danced with a naked stripper.

The popular press—Sun, Mirror, Mail, Express—which described in great detail the indignities forced on the dancer in Norfolk, could find no space at all for the interesting confessions of the stripper in Suffolk.

Nor, as far as I can gather, has any inquiry been set up by the police into the stripper's extraordinary allegations.

I NOTICE that Edinburgh Corporation have gone in for some interesting spending in these days of high rates and social service cuts. They have bought a Diamond Breast Star of the Order of the Thistle from Earl Haig, son of the First World War general who was personally responsible for the needless deaths of approximately a million British soldiers.

The star has been bought for £3300—half to be paid by the government, (in other words the taxpayer). Earl Haig, who is a very rich man indeed, told the Scottish Sunday Mail: 'I needed the money.'

The City Curator, whose name is Coats, said it was 'a very good buy'.





# Saturday



Pictures by Peter Harrap and Andrew Wiard (Report)

## LET'S TRAMPLE HIM, SAID POLICEMAN

*Student Nick Mullen claims he was hit on the head because he took the number of a policeman who saw Kevin Gately fall and said: 'One of the bastards is down—let's trample him'. Said Nick: 'I will happily give that policeman's number to an independent inquiry.' Kevin Gately later died in hospital. Nick Mullen, who goes to Middlesex Polytechnic, had ten stitches put in a 2½ inch gash.*

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Among them was Kevin Gately. He died in hospital four hours later without regaining consciousness.

A girl to his right was knocked down with him and kicked in the chest by a police horse. A demonstrator to his left found himself beneath one of the horses. Another girl was almost suffocated.

A student two rows behind Kevin was pinned to the ground with six people on top of him. But the police moved on, passing directly through the spot where Kevin was last seen alive.

The police charge succeeded in breaking up the demonstration. As we retreated the police rushed after us, grabbing at people, kicking and punching them.

While we were trying to regroup, we heard the drums of the Front as they approached the square. We re-formed in Theobalds Road on the side of Southampton Row nearest the square.

On the other side of the Row were the NF marchers, some carrying Union Jacks with steel points on the end, others thick wooden staves.

The police ignored the Front, but threw up a line in front of us, separating us from them.

More police came up behind us from the square and drew up in

a three-deep line across the road. Finally they brought the mounted police up a side-street in front of us. We were surrounded.

Meanwhile, the police shepherded the NF into the square via another entry. Then, at a pre-arranged signal, the police attacked.

### Crush

The horsemen, with batons drawn, charged straight into the demonstrators. At the same time, the police at the rear formed a wedge and drove into us.

The police quickly cut the remains of our demonstration in two. They drove the section on the left against the barriers along the side of Theobalds Road. The

only way in which people could get away was by jumping over the rail.

People were fainting in the crush. One girl was screaming as she found herself hemmed in by the police on the one side and a twelve-foot drop into the subway below the barrier on the other.

Eventually, people were able to climb over the barriers and away to the other side of the street through the subway.

But the police were not finished with us yet, though we were finished as a demonstration. The two police charges had broken us. The NF were in the Hall, well protected by the police.

As demonstrators dispersed, the police continued their rampage.

Individuals were grabbed, beaten up and hustled off to jail.

What was left of the IMG contingent turned off down a side street with arms linked to get away safely in a group. They were followed by about 100 policemen who, without any provocation, laid into them, kicking and punching, and arresting anyone they could get hold of.

What happened on Saturday was a police riot. The police were not trying to keep the two marches apart. They were there to protect the NF and to break up the counter-demonstration.

They did this with systematic brutality. In the process they killed one demonstrator and arrested 54. It must not happen again.

## THE NATIONAL FRONT MUST BE BEATEN

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*Ron Singer, a doctor, said:*

*'I approached one demonstrator bleeding from the head who was being escorted away by two policemen. I told them I was a doctor and wanted to administer first aid. The policeman said he didn't care who I was. 'Fuck off or we'll arrest you too' were his actual words.'*



Chris Harman speaking at the press conference after the demonstration

National Socialist movement. Tyndall was sentenced to six months in prison for organising para-military camps. Webster was jailed for assaulting President Kenyatta of Kenya. When the National Front was formed, Webster predicted it would 'kick its way into the headlines'.

In recent elections the Front has been trying to collect votes by pretending that it has changed its methods and is devoted to 'peaceful persuasion'. Close scrutiny of its publications shows otherwise.

In the latest issue of *Spearhead*, Tyndall describes another Front member, Frank Clifford, recalling pre-war fascist meetings in which people who tried to heckle 'were

hurlled from a balcony'. Tyndall describes this as one of his 'pleasantest memories'.

The Front has also been linking with extreme right-wing organisations in Northern Ireland that have been murdering people merely because they are Catholics. The magazine of the Ulster Volunteer Force, *Combat*, recently wished 'every success to the National Front in Northern Ireland...'

The issue of *Spearhead* also shows how the Front retains its fascist intentions, despite the attempts of its leaders to pretend otherwise. The editorial praises the regime of Salazar and Caetano in Portugal—a regime which shot strikers, imprisoned trade

unionists and used torture against its political opponents.

The National Front leaders hope to build the sort of movement that could lead to a similar regime in this country. They know they will not achieve this by elections. The fascist regimes the National Front admires have been established by organisations which have built up their strength by systematic violence against racial minorities and against the organised working class.

These organisations feed off the bitterness and frustration of many people living under capitalism—diverting it into hatred of racial minorities and of the left. The leaders know that if they are

successful, sections of the ruling class will support them as a useful weapon for damaging the working-class movement and breaking strikes.

That is why they are so serious about marching on the streets in semi-military parades. They know that it is the thrill of marching in such a fashion that attracts much of their support. They know that if they can frighten trade unionists by their power on the streets, then big business will start giving them funds.

### Action

The behaviour of the police on Saturday shows they are not going to prevent the National Front developing into a real weapon that could be used by big business against the working class. Quite the opposite: they have orders to allow the fascists freedom to organise.

That is why the left has to take direct action to deny the fascists the ability to organise and to march.

Fortunately, the National Front is weak. It cannot even translate the few thousand votes it gets in elections into demonstration strength. On Saturday it had fewer than 1000 people marching with it.

But as growing numbers of people get disillusioned with the

ability of the political parties and the trade union leaders to deal with the crisis of the system, there is a real danger that many will turn to the fascists.

The best way for the left to prevent this is by intensifying our attack on capitalism, so that we build a real alternative to the Labour Party and the union bureaucracies. The building of a revolutionary workers party that unites workers in struggle regardless of their country of origin, is the only way to prevent a growth of the far right as the crisis gets worse.

The main aim of socialists is to build such an organisation by intensifying our work, particularly in the factories, concentrating our attack on the capitalist system and on a Labour government which is trying to prop it up.

We should not forget that big business depends much more on the government and the union leaders to restrain workers than it does on the fascists. But neither should we forget that as the crisis gets worse, the fascists can develop into a real menace—and the working class needs to use physical force to clear that menace from the streets.

**Chris Harman**

Member of the IS executive committee



## bookshops

Pamphlets published by the International Socialists:

**The Struggle for Workers' Power**, by Roger Rosewell, 10p

**Can Socialism come through parliament?** by Roger Kline, 10p

**Workers against racism**, by Paul Foot, 10p

**Women fight back**, by Kath Ennis, 10p

**Trotsky**, by Duncan Hallas, 5p

**Lenin**, by Jim Higgins, 5p

**The Meaning of Marxism**, by Duncan Hallas, 25p

**Study Guide to The Meaning of Marxism**, by Richard Kuper, 10p

**DEMOCRACY IN THE MINES** edited by Ken Coates. Immediately before and during the First World War, the British working class were developing their own, principally syndicalist forms of political organisation. Among the leaders of the struggle were the miners, with their demands for the nationalisation of their industry and the participation of labour in its control. This book reprints a number of the original documents written by miners, which argued their case between 1912 and 1919. (75p)

**THE TOLPUDDLE MARTYRS** by Joyce Marlow. A detailed history of the Tolpuddle case of 1834, which saw six farm labourers convicted and deported for organising as trade unionists. The parallels with the Shrewsbury pickets case are obvious, and this interesting account shows how little the ways of the British state's 'justice' have changed over 140 years. (75p)

Now in paperback: **Harold Wilson's THE LABOUR GOVERNMENT 1964-1970**. 'Not surprisingly', the blurb states, 'the reviewers were divided'. One recommendation, at least, from *The Guardian*: 'He still argues the case for a voluntary incomes policy better than any other politician'. Hmm. Still, the inside story is good value for 1000 pages. (£1.50)

**DIRECT FROM:**  
IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4; 64 Queen Street, Glasgow, C1; 224, Deritend High Street, Birmingham; 14 Grange Road, Middlesbrough; and the Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 64 Queen Street, Coventry.

**MAIL ORDER FROM:**  
IS Books, 265, Seven Sisters Road, London, N4. Please add 4p for postage on pamphlets, 7p on books.

# Catch behind that '4p off'

'A BUMPER shopping basket boost for Britain's housewives was announced in the Commons yesterday by Prices Minister Shirley Williams'. That was the Sun last week.

'Prices of basic foods are to be kept down in many shops and stores. This latest move to help shoppers, particularly lower paid families and pensioners, was announced to a cheering Commons last night.' That

was the Daily Mirror.

Doing 'something' about prices is always at the fore of Labour and Tory party propaganda. The 'something' always remains vague. The prices don't—they keep going up.

Last year with prices going through the roof there was a lot of column inches in the papers about housewives' protests. The retailers wept about the situation and said how much they cared.

How much they do care comes out nicely in a confidential document on pricing policy from Dewhursts the butchers.

'It is quite likely', says the document, 'that during this year, there will be publicity which accuses the retailers of making exorbitant profits. This always happens when the farmer fails to make a satisfactory profit. Last year we had to face the housewife blaming the

butcher because her purse was hit.

'This year we must face the farmer criticising the butcher because his bank balance is being hit.

'It is more serious when the farmer complains because the housewives' only weapon is to cut back her buying and we can overcome that as we did last year, by tempting her with special promotions.

'The farmers' weapon is to cease buying calves or store cattle with the result that there will be a shortage of meat and another jump in prices with all the attendant discomfort and difficulties.'

## Organise

So wives, now you know. As far as Dewhursts are concerned you can be won back with fourpence off a tin of baked beans. But when it comes to those farmers, well that is quite another matter...

One way of fighting is to organise against prices. Both as trade unionists and as women. Another of course is getting a job to supplement the family income. After all there is going to be equal pay now, isn't there?

Yes... Well Dewhursts have an answer to that one too. Later on in the document, Colin Cullimore, the General Manager of the company—explains that the company has too little staff.

'The management are spending a great deal of money on a campaign to recruit additional labour. The campaign will only be successful and cost effective if the company recruits another 450 full-time males and 400 part-time females.

'So there is no misunderstanding over equal pay, I should perhaps talk about full time craftsmen butchers and part-time general assistants!'

So wives, as far as Dewhursts is concerned the solution is simple. You want fair prices and equal pay? Change sex—or take up farming...



Some of the 70 pickets—housewives and trade unionists—who threw a cordon round the acid works for two hours on Monday. They have won the full backing of the trades council.

## The antidote to sulphuric

THE NATIONAL press treated as a one day wonder the pollution problem we in Sutton, St Helens, have to live with day in and day out. This problem became even more deadly than it had been for the last century with the opening in 1970 of Leathers' sulphuric acid works in Sutton amidst housing, shops, a hospital and two schools.

A small number of women started an action group, and spent much time and energy going from one council department to another asking why the air round where they lived was rotten.

Generally 'rotten air' and then leaks which the company admitted gradually encouraged more people to join the action group, including a small number of trade unionists.

In the course of our struggle it has become obvious that there are few legal remedies we can take to protect our children, our old people and ourselves.

Last week our two hour picket on

the gates turned back a number of cars and lorries. The vast majority of the 100 strong picket line were women who had never picketed before and who were surprised at the role of the police, who naturally sided with Leathers, the owners of property.

In fact a senior policeman said that unless all but 10 dispersed, the picket would be an 'unlawful assembly', shades of Shrewsbury! We didn't disperse but there were no arrests.

## Expanded

Women are seen as traditionally conservative. Yet in this case the terrific fear for the health and lives of their children has resulted in the picket.

I spoke to three women involved in the campaign from the start, Brenda Kay, Angela Clayton and Anne Ahearne. They feel that already something has been achieved in that Leathers have not expanded as they

might otherwise have done.

What bothers them is that despite much publicity, concern and help from some local councillors, the MP and court action against the company, Leathers continues to operate.

The fear is that eventually, someone may be killed in one of the fairly frequent fallouts from the plant. The three women are convinced that the picketing must continue. Production must be affected. It takes a great deal of courage for anyone, but particularly women, to come out of their house and protest. The first big step has now been taken.

Now the active support of trade unionists is needed to develop the powerful tactic of a picket made up of women, men and children. The experience of the militants, the determination of the women of Sutton and sympathetic action by workers in nearby plants is the combination that will close this death plant.

Pat Hughes

## The Hazards of Work: How to Fight Them.

Every time you walk into your factory, your site, your office—you're in danger—danger of injury or death.

The reason? Employers are more scared of injury to profits than injury to you.

Pat Kinnersly's book is a weapon, a weapon to keep you alive.

'... Should be read and kept for reference by every trade union representative who values the interest of his union members, and I congratulate Patrick Kinnersly on producing a very useful weapon for the worker and his representative.' DAI DAVIS, Social Insurance Secretary, South Wales National Union of Mineworkers.

Available from IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Rd, London N4, 90p plus 7p postage. Bulk orders (three or more copies) 60p, postfree.

Also available from IS Books, 64 Queen St, Glasgow C1, IS Books, 224 Deritend High St, Birmingham, IS Books, 14 Grange Rd, Middlesbrough, and The Socialist and Trade Union Centre, 64 Queen St, Coventry.

# A WORD IN YOUR EAR



LEARN, WIFE IN THE KITCHEN!

Learn the simplest things. For you whose time has already come it is never too late!  
Learn your A B C's, it is not enough, but learn them! Do not let it discourage you, begin! You must know everything!  
You must take over the leadership!

Learn, man in the asylum!  
Learn, man in prison!  
Learn, wife in the kitchen!  
Learn, man of sixty!  
Seek out the school, you who are homeless!  
Sharpen your wits, you who shiver!  
Hungry man, reach for the book: it is a weapon.  
You must take over the leadership.

Don't be afraid of asking, brother!  
Don't be won over, see for yourself!  
What you don't know yourself, you don't know.  
Add up the reckoning.  
It's you who must pay it.  
Put your finger on each item, ask: how did this get here?  
You must take over the leadership.



BERTOLT BRECHT, writer of this poem was perhaps the greatest dramatist of the Twentieth Century. Born in 1898 in Augsburg, Germany he rose to prominence in Germany as a socialist playwright and was exiled in 1933 with the triumph of Hitler. He wrote *Mother Courage*, *The Mother and The Resistible Rise of Arturo Ui* (televised recently as *The Gangster Show*). He died in 1956.

# You're a socialist? You must be mad!

YOU ARE sitting at home early one Friday evening. Without warning your front door is broken down by four policemen. Two doctors follow them in and tell you that they believe you to be mad. After a struggle you are dragged off to a lunatic asylum.

A scene from Monty Python? Not at all. This really happened to Zhores Medvedev, a perfectly sane man, in April 1970.

Zhores Medvedev was a scientist working in the Soviet Union. Some of his work was known throughout the world. But his crime was that he dared to criticise the Russian regime.

In two books he had criticised the way science had been developed under Stalin and the lack of contact Russian scientists have with the outside world. He also spoke out against the opening of letters by the 'special department' of the Soviet post office.

For this he was sacked, arrested and locked up in a mental hospital. The 'doctors' diagnosed his 'illness' as 'paranoid delusions of reforming society'!

Zhores Medvedev is a typical case. Increasingly the Soviet bureaucrats are avoiding the embarrassment of political trials by locking up their opponents and

ARNIE PROUT reviews Zhores and Roy Medvedev's book *A Question of Madness*, recently published in paperback (Penguin Books, 40p).

declaring them mad. No real evidence is needed and wives and friends are not allowed to visit.

Medvedev, unlike others such as the revolutionary socialist Peter Grigorenko, is now free. But only a massive campaign launched by his brother managed to get him out.

Hundreds of writers, scientists, and old Bolsheviks flooded the authorities with telegrams and protests. The affair was publicised abroad. The Soviet dissident groups forgot their differences and joined together in the fight. Many risked being jailed or losing their own jobs.



Zhores Medvedev: Russian doctors diagnosed his illness as 'paranoid delusions of reforming society'

The campaign succeeded. But Zhores Medvedev was a 'prominent citizen' and world famous biologist. What happens to unknown people without the 'right connections'?

Zhores describes that in his ward alone there were two other 'patients' held for political reasons.

One was a young soldier declared mad for criticising the Young Communist League as bureaucratic. He wanted a youth organisation that young people had some control over.

The other was a teacher, who after being sacked by the local Communist boss, produced a hand

written leaflet in protest. This was taken as a clear sign of mental illness.

These are trivial 'crimes'. We must ask how many more 'mental patients' like these are there? How many Russian workers who demanded better conditions, better safety or argued about piece rates, have been locked up for 'reformist delusions'?

The Soviet dissident movement is often very right wing in its political ideas. The Medvedev brothers are on the left wing of this movement. They are socialists who believe that the Russian state can be gradually changed back into a workers democracy. They are wrong. The bureaucrats will never give up without a bitter struggle. Czechoslovakia proves this.

Roy Medvedev ends this book by saying that 'the liars and criminals one day will be brought to justice. And their victims if we succeed in saving them, will bear witness in court'.

The Soviet oppositionists often display great personal bravery. But if their aim is to succeed they must turn to the Russian working class. Only the class which overthrew the Tsars can unseat the bureaucrats and bring the 'liars and criminals to justice.'

agreed to talk to Panorama because of the lies they now feel are being spread about Mr Nixon... He's good fun they say. Well that's what the BBC say. Go and tell that to the Vietnamese...

WEDNESDAY: BBC-2, 9.30pm. MAN ALIVE is WHAT ABOUT OUR RIGHTS? looking at the role of women in the Irish Republic. Which is oppression by the Roman Catholic Church, and men, and exploitation by Irish, British, Japanese German and American employers.

# CAN'T SEE THE TREES FOR THE WOODY

A MAN goes into hospital for a minor operation for an ulcer and is anaesthetised. He wakes up later.

Some 200 years later. The beginning of SLEEPER, the new Woody Allen comedy currently on general release. It is a very funny film.

It is a pretty horrible world he wakes up to. Ruled by a big brother who gives the people what he wants them to want. So they sit round writing terrible poems, getting stoned, growing giant vegetables and being served by neat robots in dinner jackets.

All men are impotent and all women frigid. No matter, a machine in every living room provides sex at the press of a button.

There is an opposition, an underground, dedicated to overthrowing the regime. This is made up of blue jeaned morons as unpleasant as the bunch they are trying to overthrow.

## WRONG

Allen uses the science fiction format to do what he usually does. Make a film about a neurotic little guy who is worried about his life, his wife, has very little idea how anybody else is getting on, but has the feeling they are all getting on a lot better than him.

He doesn't trust the government, he doesn't trust anyone else. He believes, he says, in death and sex. He wants to be left alone.

It is an appealing position but totally wrong. The position of a man who has seen a stream of money flowing past him one way and a stream of revolutionary talk—but no organisation or action flowing the other way.

Neither mean very much. Money as we all know, doesn't buy happiness and the revolutionaries don't buy anything other than an occasional pair of new jeans.

Much of the revolutionary talk in the 1960s in America was just that—talk. After 20 years of world domination and expansion the USA started cracking, but what filled the gap wasn't a challenge to the ruling class but hot air and dramatic gestures, from the Woodstock pop festival to the kidnapping of Patty Hearst.

On the other side was Watergate, murder in Vietnam and repression.

And in the middle stands Allen complaining about the hot air—often very amusingly. But not doing anything about it, or suggesting how others can.

John Telfair

## ON THE BOX

● SATURDAY: ITV (London area only) 10.35pm. Clifford Odets was blacklisted during the anti-left-wing witchhunt in the Hollywood of the 1940s and early 1950s. His first break after this was scripting an early Elvis Presley movie but it was THE SWEET SMELL OF SUCCESS which got him back on the road. This film about a newspaper columnist/crook (Burt Lancaster) and his pathetic hanger on (Tony Curtis) is worth seeing.

● SUNDAY: BBC-1, 7.25pm. This week's episode of

AMERICA, Alistair Cooke's liberal guide to the history of the USA deals with MAKING A REVOLUTION, the drafting of the Declaration of Independence by a small group of politically motivated men bent on overthrowing the forces of British law and order. They even shot at British soldiers!

● MONDAY: BBC-1, 8.10pm. ● PANORAMA ON NIXON, is a survey of Nixon's career featuring the aptly named Mr and Mrs Drown who've been friends of his since 35 years before Watergate. They've

# THE UNIONS

## Watch out, there's a scab about

THREE WEEKS ago Socialist Worker was approached by a gentleman named Adrian Carmel, an official with the giant International Brotherhood of Teamsters, the American transport drivers' union.

Carmel has been in Britain for the past two months touting himself round the upper levels of the trade union movement and trying to enlist support for his union's 'cause'.

He has asked for permission to address the Transport Workers' and Shopworkers' union executives. He has had one long conversation with the TGWU national docks officer, Tim O'Leary. Permission to address was refused, which greatly set back Carmel's hopes of success with his 'mission'.

That mission is to get British dockers and shopworkers to stop blacking Californian grapes in support of the United Farmworkers of America.

The Teamsters are desperate to break this boycott campaign. For it is the United Farmworkers' greatest weapon in their bitter fight

to bring independent trade unionism to California's fabulously profitable agricultural industry.

The Teamsters were brought in by the employers in 1967 after they realised they could no longer hold out against trade unionism altogether. They needed a sweetheart deal with a union that was powerful, would police the rank and file and would keep out the UFW.

### Sweetheart

Since then there has been a bitter struggle between the UFW and the hired hands and heavies of the United Brotherhood of Teamsters.

This year the Farmworkers are again on the offensive. They are determined to compel the employers to abandon their sweetheart contracts with the Teamsters and recognise the UFW. Which is why Adrian Carmel is in town, all expenses paid.

He's been on to the Port of London Authority for help in nobbling some docks shop stewards to explain why they should stab



Marcelina Mendez, beaten up in last summer's fight by the farmworkers to save their union

Mexican-American farmworkers in the back.

His line is that since American dockers are loading the grapes and declining to make sacrifices in support of the UFW then British dockers should not be expected to make sacrifices.

Carmel expanded on this snivelling argument when he tried to enlist Socialist Worker's help in getting a lead into the docks. He reasoned that since leading reactionaries in the American trade union movement, such as George Meany, support the UFW, then every socialist should oppose them. Naturally he claimed to be a socialist.

In case you should receive the attentions of Mr Carmel or someone like him, Socialist Worker arranged for an interview with Eliseo Medina, a member of the United Farmworkers' executive. Medina began work as a farmworker when he arrived in the United States. He was ten years old. For eight years now he has worked for the union and is co-ordinating the boycott in Ohio. He was interviewed by Cal Williams, a member of the American International Socialists.



One of the Teamsters Union thugs called in by the growers to remove the Farmworkers' Union

## Blacking in Britain vital if we are to win, says US union leader

Cal Williams, of the US International Socialists, interviews Farmworkers' Union leader Eliseo Medina



THE Teamsters never talk to the workers. They never bother to ask one single worker what they want. They have a system of organising where they go directly to the bosses and sign a contract. Then they come back and use the supervisors of the company to tell the workers that they must join the Teamsters or else they'll be fired.

This was demonstrated clearly in the lettuce industry when the California Supreme Court ruled that the growers and the Teamsters signed phoney contracts without the Teamsters representing one single farmworker. When the workers were told a contract had been signed, they all refused to ratify or join the Teamsters and went on strike.

This was in 1970 in the lettuce fields in the Salinas Valley in

California... In grapes they did the exact same thing. When the workers found out they went on strike. There were about 10,000 people out on strike in April 1973. There were thousands of people jailed because they were protesting against these phoney contracts.

The workers have shown time and again that they do not want the Teamsters.

The Teamsters are good at organising growers, organising bosses. We organise workers. If you're talking about providing representation, they represent the growers, we represent the workers.

In grapes the contracts they signed in 1973, a five-year contract today calls for 2.41 dollars an hour (£1) and the UFW provides for 2.51 dollars an hour. That 10 cents an hour

right now means about 26 dollars a month to the average worker.

The Teamster contract has no daily overtime pay, no jury duty pay, no paid holidays. They have no paid camp housing by the employer, no protection from the misuse of pesticides.

The Teamsters themselves have admitted they have no interest in the farmworkers, that their interest stems primarily from already representing cannery workers and truck drivers and that they want to control from the fields to the supermarkets. William Grammi, director of organisation for the Teamsters, admitted this in 1972 in a deposition to the California Supreme Court.

I think the Teamsters not only see the Farmworkers as a way they can have more dues-paying members without having to do anything for them but also they're afraid of a strong independent union in the fields.

The Teamsters put a lot of resources into public relations men like the one who's now in Britain. Well, we have a saying in Mexico: "With money you can make a dog dance" and that's precisely what's going on right here in Ohio. You have a public relations firm being

paid 100,000 dollars a year to go out and put forth all these lies about what's going on in California.

I would suspect the one in Britain is the same. He's not doing it because he's convinced he's helping workers, he's doing it because he's been paid well by the Teamsters.

I have heard that one of the things being put forth by the Teamsters representatives is: Why should British workers become involved in a struggle taking place in California, I think the reason is the same as why workers in New York, which is right on the other extreme of the United States from where the battle is taking place, are involved. As long as there are working men and women being exploited in one part of the world or another, all of us are weaker.

I think one thing we have learned is the trade union solidarity that has been displayed by workers in Europe, particularly the workers in Britain, and we hope that they continue to display this kind of solidarity because it's important to our winning our struggle in California. And if the Farmworkers win in California and throughout this country then some day we'll be in a position to help somebody else.



## Anger as bid to oust miners' MP dropped

AN ATTEMPT to end the National Union of Mineworkers' sponsorship of Labour MP Alfred Roberts at the NUM Yorkshire Area Council last Monday failed because of the refusal of the delegate from Kellingley pit, Pontefract, to push a resolution from his pit.

Roberts received nearly £12,000 and associated goodies for peddling Poulson's wares across the world, especially to the fascist government of Portugal. His association with Poulson is being investigated by three separate police inquiries. Yet Roberts is still sponsored by the NUM—and paid £250 a year.

The Kellingley motion demanded an end to this sponsorship and attacked Roberts for his associations

with the fascist regime in Spain. Roberts is also an officer of the Anglo-Spanish Parliamentary Committee.

But when the council met, the Kellingley delegate, a member of the Labour Party, refused to push the motion and it was dropped.

This action has not been well-received at Kellingley. There is talk of moving the motion again and of circulating it around other miners in Yorkshire who are somewhat disturbed at the revelations about the union leadership in the Poulson affair. The arrest of Tom Roebuck, a magistrate and full-time NUM secretary at Mexborough, has not helped ease the disquiet.



# Don't hang back on nurses!

THE IS Executive last Friday discussed at length the organisation's role in the nurses' dispute.

Several members expressed the view that many International Socialists are fighting shy of the nurses' dispute, for fear of duplicating the work of the Hospital Worker group and the Rank and File Movement are doing.

The Executive agreed to urge members and branches everywhere of the importance of intervention as IS, and of building a hard core of IS members among the nurses.

A circular will therefore be sent to all branches stressing the need for intervention as IS. The sale of Socialist Worker, which had dealt at length with the nurses' case and their struggle, must be built up and established in the hospitals.

Equally, Socialist Worker meetings should be held in support of the nurses with IS members taking part.

These meetings should be used to ensure the maximum possible support for the Rank and File Co-ordinating Committee's call for a strike for the nurses on 8 July.

Wigan Branch had found that selling the paper outside hospitals at

## Reminder for IS students

visiting times had proved very successful in linking the nurses' demand for a better health service with their pay claim.

The following is the part of the text of the resolution passed by the National Committee the Saturday before last:

**IS FACTORY BRANCHES** have a prime responsibility to discuss ways of getting nurses' speakers to their factories and getting token strike action.

**IS BRANCHES** must approach nurses in their area—where possible through a TU Branch or shop stewards' committee—to encourage them to go to all the local factories for support and to call joint meetings, marches etc with other local trade unionists.

They must also put nurses in touch with the Nurses National Co-ordinating Committee and with Hospital Worker.

JUST a reminder to all IS students that the summer training schools for members and close contacts are to be held in a few weeks. The dates are:

York 26 - 28 June  
Manchester 1 - 3 July  
Birmingham 3 - 5 July  
Oxford 5 - 7 July  
London 8 - 10 July

All students who will be at college next year must attend one of the schools. Convenors will be held responsible for any failure to register. Please send all registrations to the Student Sub-Committee, 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2 within the next few days as it is impossible to make adequate preparations without knowing the numbers involved.

Further details will be sent to those attending next week.

## WOMEN'S SCHOOL A SUCCESS

**LEICESTER:**—A day school for working women and housewives on writing and public speaking was a success. Kath Ennis led the morning discussion on changes and prospects for Socialist Worker and Women's Voice—what we could contribute and how to use them to best advantage.

The afternoon discussion was around articles and speeches prepared in advance and discussion of the latest issue of Women's Voice.

## Feting the class struggle

A HUNDRED and forty IS members and supporters were among the 35,000 people who attended the Fete organised by the French revolutionaries of the Lutte Ouvriere (Workers' Struggle) group near Paris. In the Whit sunshine they listened to music, wandered around the stalls displaying Lutte Ouvriere's activities and those of many foreign groups and gathered in groups for political discussion.

The IS stall displayed our work over the past year as well as aspects of the British class struggle.

A special display highlighted the spring Rank and File Conference and another showed aspects of the life and work of Lenin.

A bookstall of IS publications roused considerable interest and more than £80 worth of books and pamphlets was sold.

The atmosphere of the Fete was optimism following the 595,000 votes won by Lutte Ouvriere candidate Arlette Laguiller in the French presidential elections. Arlette's two brief speeches roused great enthusiasm as the crowds rose to their feet to sing the Internationale.

## BARBARITY... ON FILM

SOME IDEA of the real nature of life for black people in South Africa can be got from a new film which has just had its first showing. Shot illegally in South Africa, it superbly illustrates the nature of probably the most exploitative system in the world.

It shows not only the conditions of workers but the inhuman treatment of the 'non-productive' sections of the population, who are thrown on to the scrapheap of the resettlement camps.

The film Last Grave in Dimbaza, can be hired for

meetings. It ends: 'During the hour that you have been watching this film, in South Africa six black families have been thrown out of their homes, 60 blacks have been arrested under the pass laws and 60 black children have died of the effects of malnutrition. During the same hour the gold-mining companies have made a profit of £35,000.'

Last Grave in Dimbaza is bookable through Morena Films, 607 Grand Buildings, Trafalgar Square, London WC2; 01-839 1907.

**ENTRIES** for this column must be posted to reach Socialist Worker by Monday morning—and remember the 'first class' post takes two days as often as one. Due to pressure of work we cannot take What's On entries over the phone. Entries here are free for IS branches and other IS organisations.

## IS public meetings

**HULL** District IS public meeting: The struggle for socialism. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Wednesday 26 June, 7.30pm, Stevedores and Dockers Club, Posterngate, Hull. All welcome.

**PARTINGTON** IS public meeting: The Rates Scandal. Speaker: Ted Cantel (NALGO shop steward). Friday 21 June, 8pm, Partington Community Centre.

**MERSEYSIDE** IS public meeting: Socialism or the social contract? Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 26 June, 8pm, AUEW Hall, Mount Pleasant, Liverpool.

**EAST LONDON** District IS benefit social: Saturday 22 June, 8.30pm, The Swan, Stratford Broadway, Stratford. The Kartoon Klowns—disco—bar extension. Admission 40p.

**MERSEYSIDE** IS Social: Buffet and disco, bar ext, 8pm-1am. Friday 21 June. Strand Hotel, Brunswick St (opposite Pier Head) downstairs. All welcome.

**BIRMINGHAM** IS British Leyland workers public meeting. Paul Foot is speaking on Friday 21 June at 8pm in The Old Bull's Head. Watch out for further details.

**COVENTRY** DISTRICT IS: Day outing to Forest of Dean. Sunday 23 June. Tickets £1 (children free) from branch secretaries, or from TU and Socialist Books. Non-IS members especially welcome.

**KENTISH TOWN** IS public meeting: What's happening to the public services? Speakers from Housing, Transport, Health, Education and Welfare Services. Tuesday 2 July, 8pm, Enterprise pub, opposite Chalk Farm tube station.

**ILFORD & DAGENHAM** IS public mtng: Socialism or Social Contract? Speaker: Tony Cliff (IS Executive). Tuesday 25 June, 8pm, The Co-op Hall, 203 Ilford Lane.

**EXETER** IS public meeting: Threshold payments. Speaker: Duncan Hallas. Thurs 27 June, 8pm, Devonport Inn, Fore St.

**WIGAN** IS public meeting: Lenin. Speaker: Tony Cliff. Thursday 27 June, 8pm, The Wheatshaf Hotel, Wallgate, Wigan. All socialists and trade unionists welcome.

**Huddersfield** IS public meeting: Why Labour can't bring socialism. Speaker: Paul Foot. Thursday 4 July, 8pm. Friendly and Trades Club, Northumberland Street. Admission 10p.

**DUDLEY TENANTS & RATEPAYERS' ASSOC. & DUDLEY** IS jumble sale. Sat 29 June, 2pm, St Andrew's Church Hall, Bilston Street, Sedgley. Admission 2p.

**TOTTENHAM** IS Jumble Sale: Saturday 29 June, 2pm, Broadwater Farm Junior School, Adams Road, London N17. All kinds of jumble wanted—please ring 808 8553 for collection within reasonable distance. Refreshments. Admission 3p. Proceeds to the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund.

**IPSWICH** IS public meeting: Solidarity with the Chilean Resistance. Film with soundtrack, followed by Chilean speaker. Monday 24 June, 8pm, Gardeners Arms, Fore Hamlet, Ipswich. All socialists and trade unions welcome.

**ROCHDALE** IS public meeting: Support the nurses. Speaker from Manchester and District Nurses Action Group. Thursday 27 June, 8pm, Brunswick Hotel, Baillie St.

**TWICKENHAM** IS open meeting: Lenin. Speaker: Peter Smith. Thursday 27 June, 8.45pm, The Red Lion, Heath Road.

**CENTRAL LONDON** IS public meeting: What's left in Ireland? Speaker: Paddy Prendeville. Wednesday 26 June, 8pm, The Mother Red Cap, opposite Camden Town tube station.

**CITY OF LONDON POLYTECHNIC IS SOCIETY:** Support the 400 Asian strikers at Imperial Typewriters, Leicester. Students' Union (corner of Commercial Street and Whitechapel High Street) Sunday 23 June, 7pm.

**LONDON IS public meeting:** The General Strike. Speaker: Harry Wicks. Sunday 30 June, 7pm, The Roebuck, 108a Tottenham Court Road. Organised by the IS History Group.

**CHESTERFIELD IS public meeting:** The Social Contract and the fight to come. Speaker: John Taylor, Thursday 27 June, 7.45pm, Room 8 Chesterfield Market Hall (entrance facing spire). All welcome.

**CRICKLEWOOD** IS inaugural public meeting: Flixborough, the hazards of work and how to fight them. Speakers: Pat Kinnerly (author, Hazards of Work and How to Fight Them), Bernadette Dunne (AUEW, Frigidaire) Thursday 20 June, 8pm, Anson Hall, Chichele Road, NW2.

**DAGENHAM and FORD'S** IS branches: March and picket. Picket Barking magistrates court in defence of the four Ford workers arrested on 8 May during the AUEW strike. Assemble 9.15am on Monday 1 July at Barking Park, Longbridge Road for march to court. All London IS members urged to attend.

**SCARBOROUGH** IS public meeting: Socialism in our time. Speaker: Paul Foot. Wednesday 3 July, 7.30pm. The Art Gallery, The Crescent, Scarborough. All welcome.

## Meetings for IS members

**IS MIDDLE EAST GROUP:** All IS members from the Middle East, those interested in the area and those in contact with Middle Eastern workers or political groups in Britain or abroad, please contact Paul Marfleet, IS Books, 265 Seven Sisters Road, London N4 (phone 01-802 6145).

**SPECIAL OFFER:** IS journal issues 60-64 including the special double issue (61) on imperialism, international capitalism, the permanent revolution and the British labour movement. 70p for the five copies (including postage). Orders now to IS Journal, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

**IS BUSWORKERS** Fraction School: Weekend 22-23 June, IS Books, 224 Deritend High Street, Birmingham. Saturday 3-6pm: Working at the garage, introduced by Les Kay (fraction secretary); Sunday 9-11am: The London busmen's rank and file movement 1932-37, introduced by Pete Glatter (editor, London Transport Platform); Sunday 12noon-3pm: IS and the Rank and File Movement. All IS busworkers to attend. Overnight accommodation can be arranged. There is a charge of £1 per member attending for the fraction funds. Contact Les Kay, 99 Tintern Crescent, Blackburn, Lancs.

**IS Training and Publications Committee:** Meeting for IS members interested in political economy in Leeds, 22-23 June. Aims: to discuss current economic perspectives and to set up working economics group to service IS. Details from Jim Kincaid, 11 Moseley Wood View, Leeds 16.

**IS DAY SCHOOL ON IRELAND:** John Palmer on Republicanism, Jeff Bell on Orangeism, Mike Heym on Partition, Jimmy Grealy on the loyalist strike and the way forward, Neil Davies on the role of the army, Kevin O'Doherty on the Troops Out Movement. Saturday 6 July, 10.30am to 5.30pm, Room 101a London School of Economics (St Clements Building). Branches should send at least one delegate.

**IS LONDON NALGO** fraction meeting. Tuesday 25 June, 7.30pm, Earl Russell pub, Pancras Road (near Kings Cross Station).

**LONDON IS TEACHERS** AGGREGATE: Friday 28 June, 5.45pm, Earl Russell pub, Pancras Road (near Kings Cross Station). All London IS teachers expected to attend.

## IS notices

**PART-TIME ASSISTANT BUSINESS MANAGER:** for SW circulation office. Five half days or three full days per week. Clerical experience necessary and typing an advantage. The job will require someone capable of dealing with SW organisers and districts.

**SOCIALIST WORKER** needs a writing journalist to start full-time at the beginning of September. Qualifications and experience as a journalist welcome but not essential. Lack of either should not deter applicants. Job will entail living in or within commuting distance of London. Apply in writing, giving qualifications and reasons why you want the job—and if you've written anything before send examples of your work. Applications by mid-July at the latest to Editorial Board, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London, E2 9DS.

**WOMENS VOICE:** Next issue out within a fortnight. Please phone orders to Harlow 37205.

**HARLESDEN** IS wish to thank all our friends who helped us raise £40 for the Socialist Worker Fighting Fund at our jumble sale.

**LEAFLETS AND POSTERS** for IS Troops Out meetings: Master leaflet for reproduction by electro-stencil 25p, posters 50 for £1—with space left for branches to fill in their own details. From John Houston, Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Speakers' lists available from 8 Cottons Gardens, London E2, and IS district organisers.

## Classified

Copy for the Classified section must arrive by first post Monday morning. Adverts will not be accepted over the phone. Charges are 1p per word, semi-display 2p per word. CASH WITH COPY to Classified, Socialist Worker, Corbridge Crescent, London E2 9DS.

**GIVE BLOOD** in the wounded in struggling areas in Africa—Guinea-Bissau, Angola and Mozambique. Phone 01-734 9541 for appointment.

**URGENTLY REQUIRED**—Unfurnished house/flat in the Merseyside area for young couple with baby who are cheesed-off visiting the housing department and small-time property speculation companies that dwell in this corrupt city. Please write to Stephen Collier, 13 Shotwick Street, Edge Lane, Liverpool 7.

**SOCIALIST GAY GROUP** has speakers throughout the country on the gay question and sexism. Inquiries from IS branches specially welcomed. Details from 18 Brisbane Rd, Smethwick, Warley, Worcs.

**SOCIALIST EXHIBITION:** Stands featuring Marxism, War, Russia, Capitalism etc. to mark 70th anniversary of the SOCIALIST PARTY OF GREAT BRITAIN. At 52 Clapham High Street, SW4. Open Saturdays 15 and 22 June 10-7. Sunday 16 June 2-7. Monday 17 through Friday 21 June 6-9. Admission free. All welcome.

**PERMANENT REVOLUTION:** No 2 now out. Articles on Chile, the Workers' Government; Rosa Luxemburg on the Belgian General Strike (first time in English); discussion; reviews. 20p plus 5p postage from 98 Gifford Street, London, N1.

**GROUP OF SOCIALISTS** with children would like to meet others (with or without children) who are interested in escaping from or avoiding the nuclear family, and in living together as a commune or collective. Phone Droitwich (Worc'shire) 3730 or 01-348 3475.

**RELIABLE IS** comrade wanted to share N7 flat from 23 June. £7.50 pw. Ring Shaun Doherty 607-8067.

Yorkshire Conference **SHREWSBURY DEFENCE—WHAT NEXT?**  
One day conference 22 June at York University. Sponsored by York Trades Council and University Students Union Shrewsbury Defence Committees (creche provided). Delegations invited from all Yorkshire trades councils, TU bodies and students unions. Observers welcome. Details and credentials from A Power (Sec York TC) 25 Ratcliffe Street, York.

**LONDON WORKERS' FIGHT:** Readers' meeting. Terry Liddle (Committee for Defence of Ukrainian Dissidents) on Repression and Unrest in the Ukraine. 7.30pm. Sunday 23 June 'Golden Lion', Britannia Street, near Kings Cross.

World without war, wages or want. The Garage, Roscoe/Oldham Sts, Liverpool 1. Audience participation. Saturday 22 June, 7.30pm. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

**SOCIALISM IS NEEDED NOW.** Why still war, want and crises? Full discussion, Monday 24 June, 8pm, 52 Clapham High Street, SW4. The Socialist Party of Great Britain.

**DOUBLE-ROOM** available in Streatham flat from 1 July, £10 a week. Kitchen, garden, bathroom, telephone. Ring David Whiteley 01-672 5982 (school).

**WORKING WOMEN'S CHARTER** public meeting. 22 June, 11am - 5pm. Organising around the demands of the Charter. NUFTO Hall, Jockey Fields, London WC1. Creche. Morning session: History of the Charter; Sarah Benton, ACTT, Unions and Women; Nurses' Action Committee, speaker on the nurses struggle. Afternoon session: setting up an organisational structure for the Charter.

**THE SOCIALIST PARTY** aims at building a moneyless world community without frontiers based on common ownership—with production solely for use—not profit. It opposes all other political parties, all leadership, all racism, all war. Write for Specimen socialist literature to 'One World (SW)', The Socialist Party of Great Britain, 52 Clapham High Street, London SW4.

**KITTENS.** Free, only two left. Healthy, trained, good mousers. Ring 01-388 3419.

**Just out: The Road to Revolution in Britain.** A pamphlet analysing the present crisis, the response of various workers groups and the revolutionary alternative. The pamphlet consists of articles reprinted from The Torch, newspaper of the Revolutionary Socialist League USA, recently split from the International Socialists US. Introduction by Sy Landy, 15p. British or international cheques. To: RSL, 13755 Woodward, Highland Park, Michigan 48203, USA.

**GRAMSCI**  
First National Day Conference will take place on Saturday 22 June from 10am to 8pm in Lecture Hall C, The David Hume Tower, Edinburgh University. All welcome, no admission fee. Speakers: Hamish Henderson, G V Kiernan, C K Maisels, Stephen White, G A Williams.

**THE STRIKE AT IMPERIAL TYPEWRITERS:** The full story European workers in the catering industry. Struggles at Fidelity Radio Ford's and Yorkshire Carpets. Strikes in India and Dominica. Capital in South Africa. Power-packed July issue out now. 15p from all IS bookshops or direct from Race Today, 184 Kings Cross Road, London WC1.

# The battle over the threshold

# Get that deal...and fight on

by Mick Tew, TASS, Alfred Herbert's

THRESHOLD deals were first promoted by right-wing trade unionists and employers who saw them as a way of securing longer-term wage agreements.

They undermined big across-the-board wage claims, since bosses could claim a threshold had already compensated for the increased cost of living.

That's why the more militant unions opposed the deals, insisting that to accept them was to swallow the idea that there was a wages fund that the working class had a fixed share of the 'national cake'.

Threshold deals became part of the Tory government's Phase Three package and, last autumn, were dangled in front of workers.

But in May this year, the threshold triggered three times over. And new

figures were due this Friday. All of a sudden the employers' enthusiasm vanished.

Since then the employers' response in our area, Coventry, has been far from uniform. Rolls Royce (1971) conceded the threshold in full to their 8000 workers. So did Courtaulds, Webster and Bennett machine tools, Massey Ferguson and some other firms.

Others are offering a part threshold payment on a ceiling basis. GEC, for instance, are insisting on £1.60 maximum. Or there is the month by month review, such as Wickman's offered.

But Coventry's major employers, the car bosses, have taken a much tougher line. Neither Chrysler nor

British Leyland has offered any payment at all.

Inflation having done its trick, many employers are now refusing to pay part of the wage to which we are entitled, while others are offering part-payments which can only be regarded as insults to the workers who produce their profits.

The simple truth is that every worker needs this present threshold and more besides. We even have a legal right to it, within Phase Three.

This is not a claim affecting just one group of workers at one factory, but a claim for all workers, white or blue collar, on all sites, and in all companies.

The immediate demand must be to get the threshold paid. But having

achieved this, we must bear in mind the crucial point that Phase Three leaves payment open only until 15 November. After this, the payment can legally be ended which could put us right back where we were before the threshold commenced.

In November, workers will not only be faced with their wages being eroded still further by inflation, but with actual cuts in the cash they are receiving.

It will need a massive, united struggle to prevent this taking place. The links must be established NOW across unions and between factories

## Bosses' ploy... 1

GLASGOW: Workers at Barr and Strouds struck on Monday, demanding payment of the full threshold. Management were sticking firm on the Engineering Employers' Federation principle of negotiating every month, rather than paying up in full.

After a few hours' industrial action, management agreed to pay for every rise in the index until a works conference on the main issue.

The shop stewards' committee, which got unanimous backing last week to fight for the full deal, successfully recommended a mass meeting to accept this. But there was a substantial minority wanting to continue the strike until a full threshold agreement was obtained.

## Bosses' ploy... 2

GLOUCESTER: Workers at Bryce Bergers, part of the Joseph Lucas group, struck last Thursday over management's refusal to pay the £1.20 threshold in full to workers under 21.

A mass meeting decided not to work until mid morning next day, when the stewards would have met management. They continued to refuse.

The stewards came back with a recommendation to ban overtime and sub contract work. But a motion from the floor for a one day strike was passed almost unanimously.

Workers at Babcock and Wilcox in Gloucester struck for three days before being paid. Further action at Bryce Bergers was being decided this week.

## Bosses' ploy... 3

GATESHEAD: Boilermakers at Clarke Chapman are now in the second week of their strike. This followed management's attempt to tack a productivity clause on to a threshold payment.

AUEW members in the plant got the threshold without strings. But management tried to claw back a 92p a week payment for boilermakers working a new automatic pipe welding machine, which cuts welding time by half.

A new Socialist Worker leaflet on the threshold fight after Friday's Retail Price Index rises is available from Corbridge Works, Corbridge Crescent, London E2. Price £1.50 per 1000, this leaflet will be of considerable use in the struggle. It explains the various con-tricks the employers and the Pay Board get up to and how to win.

## PLESSEY SIT-IN GOES ON

NOTTINGHAM: Plessey, Beeston convenor Brian Crosland speaking to last Friday's mass meeting which voted overwhelmingly to continue their sit-in strike.

The workers launched the strike in support of a full threshold payment. Management was trying to impose a £1.60 ceiling which would

have given no more after the initial payment.

This week 9000 more Plessey workers in Liverpool and the North East joined the struggle by striking. This followed a meeting of the national combine which decided on company-wide action.

PICTURE: John Sturrock (Report)



## Two pay victories in a month!

DUNDEE: 40 sheet metal and wire workers at Adamson's have won their 2½ week strike for a threshold payment. The strike came only a month after a two-day strike won the men a £3.80 increase.

When the £1.20 threshold payment was demanded, a director told the men the £1.20 would be deducted from the £3.80.

The men immediately walked out, as the directors would not negotiate with the shop committee. Willie Brown, shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'Robertson told us that the £3.80 payment was illegal, but when the men are packed on the back of open lorries to go to jobs, or we point out the lack of guards on the guillotines, or the lack of urinals, legality is never mentioned. As usual, the bosses use the law when it suits them.'

### Sacked

All the men were sacked. But they went back to work on Monday. Adamson's will re-engage them if they re-apply for their jobs. Only two T&EC wire-workers went back. The rest of the men were sacked.

Tommy Campbell, chairman of the shop stewards' committee, said: 'The firm was trying to make this a test case. If they had got away with it, we would have had to wait until the Retail Price Index caught up with us or the £1.20 before we could go back. They were out of luck.'

THE BATTLE for the threshold exploded in the Midlands this week with the strike of all 5000 manual workers at GEC's three Coventry plants.

All AUEW and Transport Union members at the Stoke, Spon Street and Raglan Street plants are now on strike for an open-ended threshold agreement.

GEC management, in their usual ruthless fashion, are trying—just like Plesseys—to impose a £1.60 ceiling so that they can get away with a

once-for-ever payment.

At Standard Triumph, Coventry, part of the giant British Leyland empire which flatly refuses to make any payments, 160 Association of Clerical, Technical and Supervisory Staffs members struck on Monday, causing 9000 workers to be laid off in Coventry. There were also extensive lay-offs in Liverpool.

### 'Clarification'

The ACTSS members are to continue their campaign with lightning strikes, designed to hit as hard as possible.

At Standard Triumph in Liverpool the stewards' committee voted in support of

a manoeuvre to delay their decision on future negotiations.

They are also waiting on 'clarification' of the threshold position. This might be forthcoming at the meeting of the Leyland combine executive.

The Society of Graphical and Allied Trades, the 200,000-strong paper and printworkers' union, threatened an all out strike of its 100,000 members employed by the Newspaper Society and British Printing Industries Federation if the threshold is not paid in full.

The employers have been trying to blackmail SOGAT to settle the broader wages dispute on the employers' terms in return for a threshold deal.

At Chrysler, Whitley, 17 TASS mem-

bers had been suspended by Tuesday for fighting for the threshold. TASS members are imposing full sanctions in a bid to get Chrysler to pay up.

Following a meeting of the combine committee at Herbert's, Coventry, on Friday last week, the company upped its offer. They are still trying to keep a ceiling on the deal but are now suggesting 13 per cent. The unions, who are now totally united, shop floor with staff, are still demanding a no-ceiling deal.

### The last straw

SOUTHALL, London: About 400 clerical workers at AEC struck last Wednesday—even though the APEX branch has only 300 members. This was in response to the APEX call for a one-day strike throughout British Leyland over threshold payments.

Workers have been continually messed around by Leyland over the last few months on staffing, grading appeals and working conditions.

Their refusal to pay any threshold money was the last straw.

We had no previous strike experience but were able to achieve a great deal. We had a picket line on the main gate throughout the day and have now seen our strength for the first time.

We also now understand how the shop floor workers have felt in the past when we crossed their picket lines. We realise the need to have a lot more with the shop stewards and to wrap the idea that we have nothing to lose.

## The strike that must spread

by Neil Collins AUEW

Over 100,000 workers at West Yorkshire Toolworks, part of the British Leyland empire, have been on strike since last Thursday over the company's refusal to pay the £1.20 threshold agreement. The union was the first to call for an open-ended threshold agreement.

The company's refusal to pay the £1.20 threshold agreement is a test case. If they had got away with it, we would have had to wait until the Retail Price Index caught up with us or the £1.20 before we could go back. They were out of luck.

For years, British Leyland have been trying to lower our standard of living throughout the combine.

The new threshold agreement is a test case. If they had got away with it, we would have had to wait until the Retail Price Index caught up with us or the £1.20 before we could go back. They were out of luck.

members to cross our picket lines, even though APEX called a one-day strike last Friday over the threshold.

There is a strong feeling among workers that the outcome depends largely upon the response in the major British Leyland factories. So far there has been none.

The combine committee has known for weeks that British Leyland would refuse to pay and yet have not tried to show any united action. The immediate step must be to call for a one-day strike throughout the combine.

# HOW WE KICKED OUT THE SOCIAL CONTRACT

LAST WEEK'S NALGO Conference decision to stop the union leadership calling off action in support of the London Weighting Campaign was a magnificent victory for rank and file organisation and trade union solidarity.

It means that the campaign of selected strikes, overtime bans and non-co-operation with agency staff will continue for local government and electricity white-collar workers.

The debate was the highlight of the five-day conference. It marked a new maturity of trade unionism within NALGO. General Secretary Geoffrey Drain pleaded with delegates to call off the campaign, since it 'had achieved all it could'.

But this was rejected by many delegates who refused to allow their London colleagues

by Barry White

to be sent back to work without any acceptable offer from the employers and with negotiations on the National Pay Claim pending.

For most of the week supporters of the rank and file NALGO Action Group and others worked hard campaigning in support of the motion to continue the action. The union's failure to inform the membership outside London of the struggle meant many delegates were unaware of the action and its effectiveness.

## REJECTED

The job was done well. A card vote was forced by the defeated members of the National Executive Council—and the motion was carried by 226,260 votes to 153,242.

Earlier that day, Conference heard Len Murray trying to sell the latest form of wage restraint, the Social Compact. He received

little satisfaction since only the previous day, Conference rejected the Compact.

It did however approve an equivocal motion supporting 'progressive economic policy covering prices, profits and incomes, provided there was no statutory interference with voluntary collective bargaining, and that real living standards were maintained'.

## DELEGATES

The argument was really about the failure of the TUC to consult all affiliated union chiefs about the level of voluntary pay restraint rather than the concept of allowing wages to be held down while prices and profits rise. Calls by NALGO Action Group delegates for a policy to fight the social compact and for a real increase in living standards were ignored by the platform.

NALGO's growing social awareness was reflected in motions debated on racialism, homelessness, women's rights, the plight of black South African workers and the nurses' campaign.

A step forward in union democracy first advocated by the Action Group was made when a motion calling on candidates for the National Executive Council to issue election addresses was carried against the wishes of the NEC.

The Conference was a great step forward for supporters of the Action Group, who organised daily open meetings at the end of each Conference session.

They also distributed some 2000 daily bulletins, held a well-attended open meeting on the social compact and building the Action Group, and collected over £100 from delegates for Group funds.

Delegates now have to prepare within their branches for the coming battle over the 20 per cent local government pay claim. Although negotiators are under instructions not to settle within Phase 3, militants have little confidence that the leadership will mobilise members in support of the claim.

In London the struggle for London Weighting goes on but the action must be escalated. Members should be proposing joint action with the teachers and nurses in their locality against Labour's Phase 3 and the Social Compact and so turn many of last week's conference decisions into reality.

## Miners slap Labour in the face

THE LABOUR government got a slap in the face last week at the Scottish area conference of the National Union of Mineworkers. Delegates rejected any notion of a social contract.

Bill McLean, Scottish area secretary, moved a resolution opposing any kind of incomes policy, statutory or voluntary.

He said secret talks had been taking place between the government and certain members of the TUC general council. 'This is a scandalous situation when the TUC was supposed to be opposed to a statutory incomes policy.'

Conference approved a wage claim, for submission to next month's national union conference of £50 to £65 a week from November. It also agreed to ban overtime if necessary to keep stockpiles at a predetermined level so any future strike would hit home quickly.

## Operators win support

by Maureen McCallum, ASTMS  
ASTMS computing operators in Scottish universities have been on strike over re-grading for seven weeks. In Glasgow, the 31 women operators have been picketing the gates of the university and with co-operation from the drivers, few supplies have been getting in. Other technicians have taken strike action in their support.

Much research work is at a standstill, but the university's authorities have refused to move.

At Strathclyde university the operators are occupying computing premises. Picketing is taking place at Stirling and Aberdeen. Heriot Watt university in Edinburgh have also joined the strike. About 90 operators in Scotland are in dispute.

The ASTMS Conference voted to escalate the dispute to national level. Operators in Birmingham, Bath and Manchester have joined in. Meanwhile the Scottish region is standing firm, with support from other staff and students at the universities.

## This strike is crucial

tion—and were all sacked. If management succeed, they will repeat the operation elsewhere.

The union is to call a 24-hour strike in all the organised hotels in Cardiff. A permanent combine in THF is needed, with determined action until the Post House staff win their fight.

## Boost for Strachan's pickets

EASTLEIGH:—Strachan's pickets, in the 17th week of their dispute, have been heartened by Southampton and Newhaven dockers' decision to black all Ford products, as well as those of Maxwell Joseph's Giltspur group, from next Monday. They are calling on other dockers and trade unionists to follow their example.

Ford's, sole customers for Strachan's A series vans when the plant was open, connived at the closure of the plant at 1½ hours' notice. There is no doubt that, if so minded, they could reopen the factory tomorrow.

The rank and file-organised blacking is also beginning to bite. Last week Mr Paradise of Giltspur phoned Bob Boardman, T&GWU Automotive official complaining that blacking sheets naming Giltspur's companies were being circulated round the country in large numbers, causing them considerable embarrassment. Anxious customers were cancelling future contracts.

He maintained that if Mick Marshall, dispute committee secretary, continued acting in an irresponsible way (ie circulating blacking sheets) he would have to take legal proceedings against him. He also asked Bob Boardman to curb Mick Marshall's activities. Boardman refused.

Strachan's workers are more determined than ever to get their jobs back and are anxious that the blacking of Giltspur and especially Fords, spreads as widely as possible.

Blacking sheets giving lists of Giltspur subsidiaries are available from M Vass, 53 Derby Road, Eastleigh, Hants.

## BOSSES BREW UP A NIGHTMARE...

NEWCASTLE:—Attempts by Scottish and Newcastle Breweries to buy out a productivity deal with the transport section have reached deadlock. A big increase in sales and a related increase in bonuses, as the deal had promised, has seen the scheme rebound on the company.

The 300 men are receiving a total of £96,000 a year, which will go up as sales go up. Scottish and Newcastle say they cannot afford it.

To get the transport section to agree, the company offered each of the men a new car. That was rejected.

The company then suggested buying three pubs, whose profits would then be divided among the men. Naturally, the men chose the best three in town, with a total value of £700,000.

Now everyone is waiting for the company's next move.

## ...AND A STRIKE

SOUTH WALES:—Welsh Brewers is a subsidiary of Bass Charrington. Draymen warehousemen and spirit store workers at the three depots at Cardiff, Aberboeg and Swansea earn an average of £40 a week. Their English equivalents earn up to £60.

The Welsh workers struck on 24 May over the suspension of shop stewards. This followed a call from the men for an all-out stoppage for parity.

By 10 June the men were out again—and management threatened all talks would cease unless they went back the next day.

The men haven't budged. They say they will accept the average earnings of other depots as a starter for negotiations. Sympathy one day strikes have come from depot workers at the local Brains, Whitbread, Ansell's and Babycham depots.



Three more of the Shrewsbury Six—the building workers jailed for picketing during the 1972 national strike—pictured after their release last week. From the left, Brian Williams, Arthur Murray and Mike Pierce, who were jailed on 'unlawful assembly' charges last January, and have served their six months sentences. All three pledged themselves to continue the struggle to get the sentences quashed on Des Warren and Ricky Tomlinson, now out on bail, and the Conspiracy Laws repealed.

# Pay up or else! Press barons warned

CONCEDE the demands of our members or there will be hardly any national papers from Wednesday midnight. This was the message from a Society of Graphical and Allied Trades meeting in London on Tuesday.

More than 11,000 SOGAT members are already striking in a dispute with the British Printing Industries Federation. The new strike call means that all papers with interests where the dispute is already in progress will be faced with the shut-down. And this means most of Fleet Street and many local papers.

The strike has already had a considerable impact.

Dickinson Robinson, the huge printing and stationery empire, has been hit hardest. But the union is also focussing its energies on the other big corporations who run the BPIF-IPC, whose plants at Watford and Gravesend are shut down,

Thomson, Associated Newspapers, McCorquodale and Metal Box.

The strikes are in support of wage demands up to the ceiling of Phase Three, a threshold agreement, payment of average earnings for holidays and immediate abolition of the Class Four grades.

## Response

At present, the 4800 workers in this grade earn £22.63 basic. But from next year, when equal pay is supposed to be achieved up to 40,000 women workers could end up being shoved in the Class Four category so the employers can carry on with their super-exploitation.

The response from the membership, including those not directly affected by the claim, has been magnificent in most cases. Scores of firms are giving in at local level in defiance of BPIF orders.

In Bristol, 1000 workers at Purnells have been on strike since last week. At

Colledence and Arrowsmith the full claim has been won. St Stephen's Press, Bristol, has also given in after the workers struck in response to the withdrawal of merit money.

At Bailey's Dursely, the workers, out last week, went back after being threatened with the sack. The father of the chapel (shop steward) and one other member are still out and SOGAT has said they will impose a national black on the firm.

In Kirkby, Lancashire, four factories (John Dickenson, Lillie cups, Lever Brothers and Austin Packages) are out on strike. At John Dickenson the strike is 100 per cent, with 100 to 300 of the 700 SOGAT members picketing at any one time. National Graphical Association and Engineering union members are still crossing their lines.

Frank King, FOC, told Socialist Worker that his members' peaceful picketing had met a familiar reply. One woman worker was run down by a car and had to have hospital treatment.

John Dickenson's have asked the stewards to release a batch of envelopes used for circulation information on dangerous drugs.

The strikers agreed, stating they would donate their wages to the Thalidomide Children's fund—as long as management do the same with their profit on the deal.

Since this suggestion, Dickinson's are no longer so desperate to get this 'emergency' job done.

## OUT FOR REVENGE

BRIGHTON:—The bosses at ITT's Creed factory are out for revenge after being forced to pay a rise to their workers.

Last week, some workers were handed a form and told to sign it. It stated that the signatory would agree to flexibility arrangements agreed between the company and the AUEW on June 7.

The workers were told that if they did not sign, they would not get the 'grade' increases, worth about £1 a week.

Despite pressure from union officials many workers have refused to sign, arguing there can be no point in signing a piece of paper if the matter has already been agreed between bosses and union.

Those not signing have found that they have lost £1 a week, and are still flexible under an old agreement.

The management have already started shifting workers about. By this means they save enormously on labour costs, and cut down on employment in the area and on job security.

It also makes it easy for management to isolate shop stewards and militants in the factory who try to organise, thus weakening rank and file trade union organisation in the factory.

## Walk -and be sacked

LONDON:—Building workers on French's building site at Waterworks corner on the A12 came out on strike this week after two shop stewards were sacked for walking round the site. A flying picket was sent to other sites along the 40-mile stretch of road.

CARDIFF:—90 hotel workers, members of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, are picketing the Trust House Forte-owned Post House Hotel in defence of basic trade union rights.

THF refused to recognise the union's right to negotiate a threshold payment. The workers refused to bow to intimidat-

8 JULY:

Socialist Worker

PAPER OF THE INTERNATIONAL SOCIALISTS

## All out for the nurses

MONDAY 8 JULY. That's the day you can do something to get more pay for the nurses and to save the National Health Service.

The Nurses' National Co-ordinating Committee has called on all organised workers in Britain for a day of action, including 24-hour strike action, in support of the nurses' pay claim.

Pam Denard, chairman of the committee, told Socialist Worker: 'The action we are calling for includes

24-hour stoppages with emergency cover in the hospitals and solidarity stoppages by all other trade unionists. We are also calling for a ban in all areas on private practice in the Health Service and for non-co-operation with all agency staff.

'So let's get working and make this day a holocaust for Health Minister Barbara Castle, the beginning of a programme of action that will end when we win our full demands.'

Roger Cox (AUEW) secretary of the National Rank and File Conference Organising Committee, said: 'No trade unionist must fail to fight for support for this day of action in his place of work. The organising committee are making every effort to make 8 July a success.

'We will be producing a leaflet with the Nurses Co-ordinating Committee for all trade unionists and will be discussing with our major supporters the best ways to ensure the most support.'

DOCKERS  
OUT IN  
SUPPORT

THE CALL by the National Nurses Co-ordinating Committee won immediate support from the MANCHESTER DOCKS, which were idle again on Monday as dockers struck for the nurses.

Joe Barry, stevedores' union shop steward, told Socialist Worker: 'Our action is only the first step. We will be asking our members to come out again on the day of action. We call upon all working people to take action on this day. Only industrial action will make people sit up and listen.'

YORKSHIRE MINERS have called for ballots in the branches for strike action in support of the nurses. Jim Deakin, a faceworker at Dodworth pit, told Socialist Worker: 'The lads I have spoken to are all behind the nurses, and they are willing to strike one day every week. Nurses are the most deserving case there's been for years.'

'But we have to make sure that the action is co-ordinated and that we come out together. The NUM should organise an immediate ballot for national strike action.'

Dick Hall, of Warsop Main Colliery, DERBYSHIRE, told Socialist Worker: 'When we were on strike other workers stood firmly behind us during the two-day lock-out, but I can hardly remember any occasion when we've taken positive action in support of other workers.'

'Personally, I'm in favour of an all-out stoppage until they win—and to hell with the Social Contract.'

Solidarity from other trade unionists becomes more and more important as the nurses' dispute continues.

## Rank and file fights on as the unions squabble

by Fiona Ross (NUPE)

EDINBURGH:—On Friday a 500-strong demonstration of nurses and other workers sang and shouted through the centre of the city. The demonstration was called and organised by the rank and file nurses' action group.

As the nurses' unions, NUPE and COHSE, continued to squabble, the nurses took the initiative and mobilised the demo by leafletting hospitals and other workers at factory gates and miners' galas. Calls for union support brought some co-operation from COHSE but none from NUPE.

Rank and file support came from workers at Parsons Peebles Engineering works, Bilston Glen and Monkton Hall Colliery and Mytons building site, where workers had walked out in the morning. The Robb Caledon shipyard sent a delegation.

Other groups represented electricians, junior hospital doctors and teachers, some of whom brought their classes to the rally for a lesson in practical politics!

The rally was addressed by Sue Simmons (NUPE), a student nurse who spoke about the need to keep the pressure on, to fight for an interim payment and not to be conned by vague promises from the dubious Halsbury Inquiry. Other

speakers were a rank and file teacher, a shop steward from Parsons, the treasurer of Monkton Hall NUM, who is also on the executive of Edinburgh Trades Council, and a convenor from Robb Caledon.

AID FROM  
INDUSTRY

by Andree Beida

COHSE shop steward

WEST LONDON:—Nurses at Central Middlesex Hospital, Park Royal, have had encouraging support from local trade unionists. Our hospital is in the middle of

a large industrial complex and we are using this to help our struggle.

We first approached Brent Trades Council and asked them to support our fight. They agreed and helped us organise a meeting. We formed a COHSE action group to mobilise support inside and outside the hospital.

A week of hard work by our action group, visiting local factories, speaking at lunchtime meetings of workers, led to a successful meeting of local shop stewards and convenors. Twenty-five stewards representing 15 factories and two ambulance stations were present.

A plan of action formulated including lunchtime meetings in factories and factory gate meetings to be addressed by nurses, collections, efforts to organise a stoppage of local factories on 8 July and a local demonstration of nurses and other workers, and a delegation to the hospital management committee.

This delegation was greeted with cheers from some of the nurses in the hospital. They made it clear to the management committee that they fully supported our action and got an assurance that no nurses would be victimised. The committee was overwhelmed by the support we had mobilised and readily agreed.

The support we are getting is great and in the hospital nurses who wouldn't listen to you a month ago are now joining the union and taking part in the action. All our COHSE members are applying work-to-rule measures and we hope to organise soon a ban on private patients.

We have found tremendous support from other trade unionists which has helped our fight. Nurses from other parts of the country should follow our example and mobilise support from other workers.

100 MINERS  
MARCH

by Mike Atkinson

NUPE Convenor, North East

SUNDERLAND:—500 nurses and 100 miners from five lodges demonstrated with union banners on Saturday. They marched right through the town gaining tremendous support from onlookers.

The march was followed by a rally at the Boilermakers Club addressed by Bob Shankland, of the North East Nursing Advisory Committee, and Tom Sawyer and Ron Curran, full-time NUPE officials.

They said the action in Sunderland's hospitals was just the beginning of the campaign, praised the action already taken and congratulated the shop stewards.

The miners gave financial support to the nurses. Every time they take their banners out they get £5 for 'banner bearing' from the lodge. They gave this—a total of £30—to the Advisory Committee. They pledged support whenever it's needed.

The nurses will take them up on that promise. Sunderland is one of the most militant areas in this campaign. The result is that a quarter of the town's hospital beds are empty and two private wards are closed.

The nurses' sanctions cover non-emergency cases, and they are refusing to do any non-nursing duties, such as clerical work. They also insist on a minimum of two nurses on a ward day and night.

■ The latest issue of Hospital Worker, the paper produced by rank and file nurses and hospital ancillary workers, is out this week. It includes reports from all over the country on the nurses and paramedical workers' disputes and calls for Monday 8 July to be made the greatest day in nurses' history. Copies from 8 Beverstone Road, London SW2, price 5p (plus 3p postage). Bulk orders of 10 or more post free.



Teachers, parents and children march in support of the unofficial strike. PICTURE: Mike Cohen

## Class solidarity

by Celia Deacon (NUT)

LONDON:—More than 200 teachers, parents and children from 18 schools marched last Thursday in support of Britain's first-ever unofficial strike of teachers based on school sections.

The strike is the climax of nearly three years frustration among teachers who are claiming a substantial allowance to compensate for the soaring costs of living in London. Last month more than 800 schools voted with a two-thirds majority for strike action, but the executive of the National Union of Teachers, desperate to maintain good relations with the Labour government, refused to call a strike.

Teachers in some schools struck for one day—others from Tuesday to Friday. A strike committee elected from the schools where action has been taken decided to continue with one-day unofficial stoppages to keep

the NUT executive and the Pay Board in no doubt about our feelings.

During the strike, we visited many schools all over London and talked to teachers. Although we had a friendly welcome and collected a lot of money for the strike fund, we found that many teachers still believe that they will get a good offer from the Pay Board at the end of the month, so were not prepared to support our action by striking.

But it is likely the Pay Board will produce vague recommendations, which will then have to be argued about over the summer holidays. This could be disastrous for London teachers.

That's why the strike committee is urging teachers to prepare for strike action if the board doesn't produce an immediate £350 offer.

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